Daily Report

Latin America

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Daily Report
Latin America

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Speeches, News Conference at San Jose V Talks

Mexican Foreign Secretary Cited

PA0403121389 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1720 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Speech by Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana at the opening ceremony of the Fifth EC Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation held by the EC member states, the Central American countries, and the Contadora Group member states in San Pedro Sula, Honduras—live]

[Text] Honduran President Jose Azcona, distinguished ministers and heads of the various European and Latin American delegations, representatives of international organizations, ladies and gentlemen:

Representatives of Latin America and Europe are gathered here within the framework of hospitality and friendship offered by the Honduran people and specifically the people of San Pedro Sula. The Honduran people and Government have welcomed us all with an affection that can only be compared to the beauty of the region and the majesty of its archaeological heritage. That affection will contribute to turning this meeting into a memorable event.

I am speaking on behalf of the Latin American countries, which are immediate neighbors—geographically speaking—of the Central American isthmus. Those countries are Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, and Mexico. We congratulate ourselves because such an important meeting for the region is taking place. We are sure that in the next few days the Central American countries and the EC will present the world with new proof of the state of maturity their relations have reached and of their capacity to exchange ideas to benefit the two communities.

Many advances have been made since San Jose I, a conference that was held over 4 years ago. That meeting was held on the basis of a mutual understanding of common problems. We are gathered here at a particularly special time for Central America. Only (?13) days ago in Costa del Sol, El Salvador, the five Central American countries reached one of the most important agreements for regional peace, democratization, and development.

The countries I represent believe the meeting in El Salvador is irrefutable proof of the progress made through the regional peace process and a source of hope for Central America's immediate future. We [words indistinct] recommend [words indistinct] the Central American presidents' willpower regarding their common goal of attaining peace, [word indistinct] their democratic regimes, and promoting regional development.

The meeting held in El Salvador was an extraordinarily meaningful event, because it established specific objectives and set dates to attain them. As a result of that meeting, the area presidents reached not an agreement but a program for social and political actions that will benefit the area's democratization and peace process.

We must all try to concentrate our efforts on supporting the fulfillment of the commitments made at that meeting, especially those to be fulfilled during the first phase of the agreement, which encompasses the next 90 days. That phase is a crucial period in Central American history. Our support must not be delayed, especially now that overall detente favors the solution of regional conflicts throughout the world.

As we congratulate ourselves for the progress made at the summit in El Salvador, we admit, however, that the Central American political, economic, and social process is complex and has many stages. The support for dialogue among countries and the calls to reach agreements offered by the Contadora Group and the members of the international community have been fruitful. The Central American peoples' solidarity and joint efforts to attain peace are an undeniable truth. In addition, the Central American process has gained its own momentum, which we describe as very promising.

The autonomous dialogue of the five Central American countries [word indistinct] to find Central American solutions to Central American problems is the best result of the Contadora Group's efforts to bring reconciliation and mediation. The culmination [words indistinct] of a phase does not mean that the Contadora Group is distancing itself from Central America. Our countries support and will always support any aspect of the Central American process whenever the Central American peoples require that support.

We have supported the process of cooperation and rapprochement between the EC and Central America since it began. We continue to do so. What will be our role in future EC-Central American conferences? Only you, the two parties gathered here, can tell us what you want from us.

I must point out that Colombia and Mexico believe economic cooperation is especially important. [Word indistinct] the commitment will [word indistinct] in those countries if they join efforts for larger international cooperation with the region.

The EC responded very quickly to the Central American request for cooperation. The EC has fulfilled political and economic promises. Politically speaking, the EC's support for the process of reconciliation has been invaluable. Its presence here continues to be a very valuable element in strengthening the Central American peace process.

Economically speaking, we are gathered here precisely to help the EC and the Central American countries study the progress made in matters regarding cooperation. Economic support is a basic issue. Larger international

economic support for the isthmus is crucial to consolidating the peace process. It is also important so that peace has specific and clear effects on the Central American peoples' welfare. We know that peace without progress would have fragile and ephemeral results. Peace and development are essential ingredients in strengthening democracy in the region.

Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico call on the EC specifically and the world in general to support the Central American peace and democratization process and our development with more resources. We know that the time to act is now. Before it was not possible to act, and later it could be too late. We will also make efforts to obtain or expand the support that other regions and countries like Japan, Canada, and especially the United States could give to Central America.

The so-called Group of Eight has also expressed its willingness to support Central America and in fact is already doing so. The need for larger cooperation is evident. Military demobilization is costly. The relocation of large groups of people requires investment.

The reduction of other financial contributions, which in itself is a desirable goal, has negative economic effects at present. The recent, significant Central American diplomatic efforts and actions deserve commensurate economic support. The EC has a special responsibility in this process of economic support, because it is a spearhead of disinterested international cooperation with Central America.

The EC shares the responsibility of creating programs and searching for ways to direct resources toward programs and plans that most benefit the population, that are economically the most feasible, and that constitute social goals in themselves. The EC also shares the responsibility of designing and implementing operational mechanisms to make those plans come true.

Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico are in a situation similar to that of the EC, because they share similar responsibilities regarding the Central American countries. For that reason each of those countries—in their own way—are expanding their cooperation with the region. In our case, Mexico has conducted several actions to tighten bilateral relations and to expand its economic cooperation toward the region.

Your Excellency, Honduran President, ladies and gentlemen: As a guest at this fruitful dialogue between Central America and the EC, hopeful about the course and dynamics that the Central American peace process has adopted, and aware that one phase in this process has ended and that another has begun, the Latin American countries that are immediate neighbors of the Central American isthmus—geographically speaking—reiterate our willingness to cooperate with the Central American peace, democratization, and economic recovery process in accordance with the requests of the Central American countries themselves. Thank you.

EC Delegate Matute Speaks

PA0403215489 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1731 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Speech by Abel Matute, EC member in charge of EC relations with Latin America, at the opening ceremony of the Fifth EC Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation held by the EC member states, the Central American countries, and the Contadora Group member states in San Pedro Sula, Honduras—live]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency Honduran President Jose Azcona, Your Excellency President of the European Council of Ministers, distinguished ministers, ambassadors, heads of delegations, parliament members, ladies and gentlemen. Greetings to all of you. I want my first words to express my deep gratitude for the hospitality of the Honduran people represented here by their president and dear friend Jose Azcona. [passage omitted]

We are now opening the fifth ministerial meeting between the EC and Central America. This meeting coincides with the fifth anniversary of Central American political dialogue, which we can certainly describe as positive, both because of what has already been achieved and because of future prospects for success.

It has been solemnly said—with the solemnity that all great truths require—that in Central America peace is not possible without economic development and vice versa. That fact, which has been reiterated by several Central American presidents, forms part of the Esquipulas agreements. That truth is as valid today in Central America as it was for Europe in the past. [passage omitted]

Shortly after the Contadora Group was formed, at the Stuttgart EC summit of 1983, the EC insisted on discussing the domestic socioeconomic origins of the Central American crisis and the need for the Central American countries to conduct negotiations on and to make efforts toward regional economic development. Those negotiations and efforts would be supported—although never replaced—by the solidarity of the international community in general and of the EC in particular.

Since then a number of events have taken place which, although they have not yet contributed to the achievement of the firm and lasting peace the Central American peoples long for and deserve, are at least moving in the right direction.

Referring only to the most important of those events, we can cite:

1. The political and economic talks that began in San Jose I, which continued at the meetings in Luxembourg, Guatemala, and Hamburg. Notwithstanding the issue of political cooperation, which has been wonderfully fruitful, those talks also allowed the strengthening of economic cooperation with Central America and particularly the creation of a cooperation network that presently links the EC with Central America through the signing of the economic cooperation agreement.

2. The signing of the Esquipulas peace agreements, which, as we have said, establish a direct relationship between peace and economic development.

3. The creation of a Central American plan for immediate action and the subsequent UN formation of a special and more ambitious plan for cooperation. That plan is also a magnificent [words indistinct].

4. The strengthening of dialogue among the various Central American countries, including presidential summits. The most recent success of those summits is the joint declaration signed on 14 February. That declaration and the Esquipulas II agreements are basic foundations for Central America's future.

The Brussels commission is pleased with the signing of the joint declaration because it is evidence of a firm commitment by the five Central American presidents to peace, freedom, democracy, and economic development. The EC is pleased with and acknowledges the urgent call made by the Central American presidents to the international community, and specifically to the EC, to cooperate in a program to restructure, revitalize, and strengthen economic cooperation within Central America. Europe will always respond positively to those principles of freedom and democracy.

Europe responded immediately. The European Parliament approved an urgent resolution that goes right to the core of your concerns. Europe is responding now by actively participating in this fifth ministerial meeting. Since 1983, these ministerial meetings have been accompanied by a significant development in economic cooperation between the EC and Central American countries. We aimed that cooperation at key groups in order to consolidate social and economic development.

We contributed to rural development in order to increase self-sufficiency in the production of food, to alleviate the foreign trade imbalance. We supported small- and medium-size businesses to create and consolidate a vital business and industrial sector necessary for any serious attempt at economic development. We supported the health sector and human resources in general. Human resources are, after all, the most important capital any country has.

After the Hamburg meeting, that cooperation was strengthened by specific actions such as deliveries of food supplies, assistance in refugee repatriation, and help in preparing the Central American Parliament elections.

In the near future, we intend to complete and expand that assistance, particularly in an area universally considered essential for a peaceful, sovereign, and stable Central America: the revival of the Central American Common Market. The joint declaration recently signed in El Salvador supports that revival.

No one, however, should deceive himself. Regardless of how important the agreements themselves are, implementing them is always much more crucial. The strength of the EC's support is dependent upon the extent to which specific actions honor and abide by the spirit and content of the commitments.

We firmly believe in having positive expectations, and, on the basis of those expectations, we believe that our current support will be only the first step in a series of more important joint actions conducted by the EC and other partners, as the Mexican foreign secretary said. [passage omitted]

Closing Ceremony of San Jose V

PA0603183089 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2155 GMT 28 Feb 89

[News conference with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, president of the EC Council; Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras; Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana; EC Representative Abel Matute; an unidentified FRG representative; and local and international reporters at the closing of the Fifth Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation held by the EC member states, the Central American countries, and the Contadora Group member states in San Pedro Sula, Honduras—live]

[Text] [Fernandez Ordonez] Mr President, ladies and gentlemen: As a brief introduction to this news conference, and on behalf of the EC, I would like to voice our gratitude to the Government of Honduras, not only for its hospitality, but for the efficient organization that it has provided. We want to say that this conference at San Pedro Sula has been a conference of hope and of responsibility—that is the consensus. This has been a conference of consolidation of a political dialogue, consolidation of an idea of specific cooperation for an overall economic program for several years, which is something new. It has been a conference of support for the idea of regional integration, and it has been a conference of joint efforts for peace and democracy. In sum, this conference of ministers has been a positive effort for the values we are jointly defending. It has been a fruitful dialogue. We have done a good job, and on behalf of the EC we voice our satisfaction and our gratitude. Thank you.

[Lopez Contreras] I only want to add briefly that it has been an extraordinary satisfaction for me personally, for the Honduran Government, and for San Pedro Sula to have had such illustrious visitors from America and Europe at this conference that has been held in great harmony and where—as Foreign Minister Fernandez Ordonez said—the principle of consensus and of cooperation has prevailed. These have been very intense working days, but I believe the results are very positive, as you have been able to confirm from the political and economic communiques that were delivered to the media this morning. Thank you.

[Moderator] We are now taking questions. Please ask your questions at the microphone that is in that area. Hernan Reyes from Radio America, a domestic radio station, now has the floor.

[Reyes] Thank you, Eugenio. Mr Spanish Foreign Minister, there are expectations throughout Central America about how much the EC will contribute to Central America. Can we be a little more specific as to the figures, how these have been handled, and if there is any difference between Central America and Europe about economic contributions for the region?

[Fernandez Ordonez] We have not talked about figures in this meeting. Talking about figures was not the purpose of this meeting, but rather getting together on whether there would be support for a plan that the five Central American states have presented for reactivating intra-Central American trade. That was the purpose of the economic debate. Therefore, we have not discussed figures, as that is a task that will come later.

On the second point, we have reached a consensus. There is a commitment, and I quote, of the EC to continue without delay and in a constructive manner to examine the Central American plan, which was presented just a few days ago, and define, based on this plan, the necessary steps to carry out the plan. By supporting this plan, we would be establishing the bases for accelerating regional economic integration and increasing the levels of exchange among Central American countries. And we conclude by saying that special efforts will be made by the EC in 1989. Therefore, that is the task that the commission and the Council of Ministers will carry out in the coming months. That is the commitment, the very important commitment, and as I said before, it is unprecedented in the history of the San Jose meetings.

[Moderator] Adolfo Hernandez, of the "Today" television newscast, now has the floor.

[Hernandez] Good afternoon, Mr Lopez Contreras and Mr Fernandez Ordonez. The documents that have been given to us are very beautiful. They have been drafted in a beautiful manner. However, newsmen know through experience that documents are not always honored. There is an old saying that goes: Paper will take anything. You may well understand that Central America is worried about pacification and development. How much diplomatic coercion—for example—does this conference have to enforce these agreements? Thank you.

[Lopez Contreras] What we have drafted are not mutually binding contracts, but rather declarations of a political resolve that express the wishes of all the participants. That political resolve creates a certain degree of responsibility—a moral responsibility. It is a responsibility for starting the internal procedures in each EC member state. Perhaps the commissioner would like to be more specific. As for the Central American countries, we have made a commitment to continue the accords reached through the Esquipulas agreement and the recent Costa del Sol agreement.

[Fernandez Ordonez] Speaking on behalf of the EC Council of Ministers, I must tell you that the EC has honored its commitments, it is honoring all commitments, and it will continue to do so.

[Matute] I also would like to point out that at the San Jose IV Conference in Hamburg, the EC made certain commitments, and absolutely all of them have been honored. First, we have substantially increased assistance to Central America. Financial assistance this year will be 112 million ECU's [European Currency Units], or $135 million. This means we have approximately quadrupled aid from the 1st year of cooperation in 1984. We also agreed to substantially increase certain allotments, particularly assistance to refugees and food assistance. These have been doubled from one year to another. We also agreed to start new projects in the field of regional cooperation, and this has been done. The president of the EC Council has said—and he is right—that we did not discuss figures in this conference. When the commission has to study a program, however, it naturally begins to make evaluations. Although these are only indicative of the amount, the commission has been considering figures—although, I repeat, these figures have not been discussed during the conference at any time—that indicate the program to reactivate interregional trade would require approximately 150 million ECU's in the next 2 years.

As for participation by the EC member states—as individual states, not as the EC—in providing capital for the Central American Economic Integration Bank, we think this might require approximately 180 million ECU's. This means both programs total approximately 330 million ECU's.

[Moderator] Doris Chessman from Nicaraguan Television.

[Chessman] My question is for the foreign ministers. You have said the establishment of full democracy in the Central American countries is an essential basis for any type of economic aid. What do the foreign ministers of

the EC and the Contadora Group mean by full democracy, and how long are you prepared to wait for the normalization of Central America?

[Moderator] To whom are you addressing this question, Doris?

[Chessman] To the foreign ministers. I do not know if the one who always responds will respond this time.

[Fernandez Ordonez] You are asking if aid has been conditioned to democracy. The answer is no, but the plan we have studied here, the plan for revitalizing inter-Central American trade, requires a certain level of peace and democracy before it can be implemented. No one has set conditions. An interrelationship exists; peace and democracy are essential for the success of the plan we want to implement. That is my answer.

[Moderator] Miss Diaz Zelaya of the daily TIEMPO; Alister Doyle of REUTER; and David Romero of TIEMPO.

[Diaz Zelaya] Thank you for your visit to our country. We have been encouraged by the EC president's statement about unselfish aid and respect for our wishes.

In his statement yesterday, Dr Matute said we have to take better advantage of the General Preference System [SGP] and try to have our products receive a preferred status on European markets.

I'd like to ask Dr Matute if, as a result of this meeting, there could be another meeting to revise the SGP and if there could be talks about an agreement on preferential treatment.

[Matute] A proposal calling for a revision of the SGP could have been hasty. For this reason it was not included in the joint communique, and [words indistinct] in line with the cooperation treaty that links the Central American countries with the EC. Such a proposal would have been untimely, because we are waiting for GATT negotiations, which will probably allow progress in matters in which the Central American countries have special interest.

I therefore believe we have to wait for those negotiations and see what progress is made at the multilateral level—which will always receive preferential treatment from us—before we study bilateral issues, which always involve problems with trade partners.

[Moderator] Alister Doyle of REUTER.

[Doyle] I would like to ask Mr Fernandez Ordonez and Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras if you believe the United States is going to change its Central American policy and adopt policies more like those of the EC by supporting the five countries of the region, not just four.

[Fernandez Ordonez] I do not give opinions on the foreign policy of other countries. We came here to announce the EC's consensus policy. This is a policy of support for regional integration and for the process of peace, democracy, and development in Central America. This is a policy of economic cooperation between the EC and the Central American countries. This is our policy. We are not passing judgment on the foreign policy of the United States or of any other country.

[Moderator] Before David Romero of TIEMPO, we have a question from another reporter.

[Amaya] Good evening. [Words indistinct] your words. I am Marta Amaya of EXCELSIOR. I have two questions. The first is addressed to one of the members of the Contadora Group. You have offered to play a role based on what the Central American countries ask you to do. I would like to know, what is the role you have been asked to play? The second question is for Mr Lopez Contreras. It has been said that dismantling the contras will take longer. What can you say about that?

[Solana] Regarding the question to the Contadora Group, we really have not been given any role. Our role in the conference was to participate in the meeting between the EC and the five Central American countries. We think, however, that it is advisable for countries that in some way can make an economic contribution to this region to find ways to make a more coordinated contribution in the future. A communique by Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico was issued noting that we feel we can organize an effort parallel to the EC's. This way, the EC will be given encouragement and the interest of the neighboring countries will also be demonstrated. Basically, the five Central American countries urged our cooperation not only in terms of our presence and moral and political support, which is what we have been doing until now, but in economic terms.

Something has been achieved in this respect. The San Jose pact includes a more serious agreement to supply fuel. We can do more by coordinating the forces of the three countries I mentioned.

[Moderator] The last two questions are from David Romero of TIEMPO and Pilar Dominguez of the EFE News Agency. These are the last two questions.

[Lopez] Wait a minute. I will answer the second part of the EXCELSIOR reporter's question. The Central American governments' position regarding the Nicaraguan counterrevolution and their disbandment adheres to the deadlines established by the presidents in El Salvador—namely, the 90-day period following the signing of the agreement. Meetings have been scheduled late this month to discuss this topic. Central American and UN experts will meet in mid-March.

[Romero] One question is for Dr Abel Matute and another question is for Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana, representing the Contadora Group. Dr Matute, how important is the reactivation of the Central American Common Market? Mr Solana, when the Esquipulas II agreement was signed in August 1987, the region's countries pledged to reduce the number of soldiers and weapons in each nation. I would like to know if this point has been fulfilled.

[Matute] I will be very glad to answer the question you asked me. The reactivation of the Central American Common Market is very important. I would say this is a qualitative step forward. Beyond the economic impact of the aid contained in the plan to reactivate interregional trade, it means further developing the economies of the region's countries. These countries will go beyond their small local markets and begin to reap the benefits of a much larger regional market. This situation leads to a specialization of production based on the comparative advantages of each country's production structure. Besides the effects that any trade plan may have on any one region, I think that in this particular case, political gains are made as well.

Placing the companies of the different countries and their economic policies in competition indirectly forces them into a strict economic compliance with the rules of the market and the free economy, which respect free initiative and other fundamental values. This way, political liberties are certainly expanded. I repeat that besides its undeniable economic importance, this step entails a qualitative step forward that in my judgment can be very important for the region's future.

[Moderator] We have time to answer a final question by Mrs Dominguez from the EFE News Agency. But first, we will listen to a response to the last question.

[Solana] Evidently, little progress has been made since the Esquipulas II agreement was signed in August 1987. The Central American foreign ministers' meeting last November or December in Mexico was important, however, and the most important step forward was the commitment made by the presidents in Costa del Sol, El Salvador. I believe this San Pedro Sula meeting has strengthened those commitments. Speaking for the countries that make up the Contadora Group, we are very pleased with the reiteration of the commitments and with the realism with which the five Central American countries have participated in this conference.

[Moderator] Mrs Dominguez of the EFE News Agency will now ask the last question.

[Dominguez] I would like to direct my question to the FRG secretary of state. I would like to know if her country is planning to participate in the Central American Bank? If not, does she believe Spain and Italy alone will provide the support the Central American countries are asking for?

[Moderator] I regret to inform you that she is not here right now. There is an FRG representative here, however.

[Unidentified FRG representative] My government has said several times that we are willing to participate in the mechanism of verification. The form of our participation depends on the specific request, which we still have not received. As soon as the request is received, we will study the issue and make the corresponding decisions. That issue has not been determined yet, but we are going to examine the issue.

[Moderator] Thank you very much, everyone.

Cuba

Havana Critical of U.S. Stand on Human Rights

PA0603204689 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Mar 89

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Apparently 30 years of foiled economic, political, and military aggression against the Cuban Revolution has not taught the U.S. Government one iota about genuine respect for a people's right to self-determination and sovereignty. This confirms the well-known fact that U.S. presidents never learn the lessons of history.

The White House's obstinate policy against Cuba has gone through a wide array of guises, all fashioned through pressure, force, and arrogance. Now, the attack is being resumed with the worn-out topic of alleged human rights violations on our island. This was brought up during the 45th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights [UNCHR] meeting in the Swiss city of Geneva. A UNCHR team that visited Cuba from September to October 1988, responding to a Cuban Government invitation to make an on-site assessment of human rights in the country, submitted a report at the meeting. The report, drafted after the visit, did not pass judgment or make recommendations, but it did acknowledge the valuable cooperation the Cuban Government gave the six members of the CHR team.

[U.S. representative] Armando Valladares—a former policeman of the Batista dictatorship and errand boy of U.S. rightists who has been turned into an ambassador—took up and reread the report, however, trying to give it a second interpretation. According to the United States, testimony by small counterrevolutionary groups and former prisoners accused of threatening state security, as well as doubtful renditions of incidents that took place 20 years ago or more, must be taken into consideration. A maze of ill-intended arguments was set up around this with the purpose of questioning the Cuban Revolution's policy on human rights, a task in which Washington has obtained the support of some of its western allies.

In this new and futile endeavor to demonstrate what cannot be demonstrated, one cannot find a single shred of intelligence or common sense. It is contradictory for the U.S. Government to try to assume the role of a champion of human rights while it is violating the rights of the poor and the racial minorities who live in its immense territory, and as long as it is incapable of meeting the demands for a decent life of tens of thousands of hungry and homeless families. It is also absurd and difficult to understand how the United States wants to take the lead in defending terms as broad as democracy and freedom while a large part of its economic wealth stems from the exploitation of the Third World countries and while it continues financial and military support to the world's most reactionary and backward groups and governments.

This voluminous history cannot compare for one instant with the Cuban Revolution. This socialist state excels in its protection of children and the family; in ensuring the right of all citizens, without exception, to free public health and education; and in providing social security to 100 percent of the people. These civic rights and that of each Cuban to have a job and a decent home and to enjoy freedom of choice, religion, and opinion, as well as respect for human dignity, regardless of sex or race, cannot be guaranteed as fully by the United States or by any of the governments that allowed themselves to be dragged along by the White House at the UNCHR meeting in Geneva.

Once again, the financial resources the United States spent in its propagandistic anti-Cuban campaign and its efforts will result, as usual, in blatant ridicule. In this case, a molehill will be made out of a mountain.

U.S. Remains Sole Author of Rights Resolution

FL0603153989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1452 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The United States today stands alone as the author of a resolution for a continuation of the observance of the human rights situation in Cuba, after Britain and Holland withdrew as cosponsors.

The decision was a result of a meeting held yesterday between EEC representatives and the U.S. delegation. During the meeting, the European countries criticized the way in which the U.S. draft resolution was presented and the fact that it constitutes the tacit breaking of a gentlemen's agreement between the diplomats.

After the withdrawal announcement of Great Britain and Holland, made today by the UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] in Geneva, the United States remains as the sole author of its anti-Cuban draft resolution in the face of another one, totally different, that was presented by several Latin American countries.

In their draft resolution, the Latin American countries thank Cuba for inviting the commission to observe in the country the human rights situation and for the cooperation it provided for the preparation of a report. This report, according to the delegates of those countries, does not show any of the accusations made by the United States at the UNHRC.

'Lack of Credibility' Cited

FL0603155889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The European Economic Community [EEC] countries that are members of the UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] explained to their Latin American counterparts the incident caused by the United States' presentation of an anti-Cuban resolution.

During a meeting that was held today, the EEC countries also stated that two of its members—Great Britain and Netherlands—withdrew from the co-authorship of the resolution.

At that meeting was the leader of the U.S. delegation to the UNHRC, Armando Valladares, who tried to explain that the breaking of the gentlemen's agreement was the fault of the junior-ranking officials of the U.S. delegation.

Latin American diplomats unanimously said that Valladares' apology was that of a novice. At the same time, the diplomats said that this incident has caused more lack of credibility for the United States.

To Continue Accusations

FL0603193789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Report by Orlando Contreras, special correspondent to Geneva]

[Text] In the same way that the head of the U.S. delegation, Armando Valladares, did this morning, General Vernon Walters blamed a young official for the error that was made in violating the agreement—among Latin America, the EEC, and the United States—made last Friday to not present a draft resolution while negotiations between the parties were taking place.

The United States, supported by Great Britain and the Netherlands, violated the agreement, creating great discontent among delegations of various political tendencies and geographical origins. Great Britain and the Netherlands also betrayed the trust of the other EEC countries and Spain. Spain is the president of the group of the 12 European countries and guarantor of the agreements. This morning Great Britain and the Netherlands announced that they were withdrawing as coauthors of the U.S. draft resolution; that does not mean that they also withdraw their support.

This afternoon, the outgoing U.S. representative to the main UN Headquarters in New York and former CIA chief [as heard], General Vernon Walters, accused our country once again, in more or less the same words, as he did here last year at the UN Human Rights Commission. Gen Vernon Walters said that the only road that remained for the UNHRC to take was to support the anti-Cuban draft resolution presented by the United States and to continue the UNHRC authority under some form of (?scrutiny) on Cuba.

In an approximately 25-minute speech, Gen Walters omitted concrete cases of human rights violations in other countries. This special correspondent asked him why he had not mentioned the case of Israel as a violator of human rights, or if he did not believe that Israel violated the rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Walter's answer was that he had not had time to include all the cases. The answer, obviously, did not satisfy the majority of the observers here. In another part of his speech, and in a news conference he gave immediately after his speech to the plenum, the former CIA chief made reference to what he called incitement to crime. So, I asked him if he considered the bombing of the residence of a head of state in times of peace to be an incitement to crime, or a crime in itself. Obviously, I was referring to the attack made by U.S. air and naval units against the residence of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The answer was that the United States had exercised, on that occasion, its right to self-defense. That answer, obviously, also did not convince any of the observers who participated in the news conference.

In conclusion, Walters once again used the same kind of attack against Cuba that last year got him a resounding defeat here at the UNHRC. He was asked with what kind of (?means) the United States had to continue with that draft resolution, and what decision it would make if defeated again. Walters said that, in the latter case, if he failed in his attempts again, he would return again and again to the UNHRC.

Roa Kouri's 'Rebuttal'

FL0603232289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2232 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri has characterized the remarks made by U.S. representative Vernon Walters to the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, Switzerland as large-scale intimidation. During his rebuttal, Roa Kouri noted that there are less than 100 counterrevolutionary prisoners in Cuba. He said our country, as all others, has the right to punish assassins, terrorists, and conspirators.

After asserting that we do not care about verbal terrorists, Roa Kouri said Washington should end the illegal economic blockade on Cuba. He added that the United States should also abandon its plans against the revolution and comply with international coexistence laws. Only then will its words be taken seriously, said Roa Kouri.

The Cuban vice foreign minister noted that the U.S. representative, in his analysis of the situation in the world, forgot to talk about the massive violations of its ally, Israel, in the Palestine territories. Roa Kouri said there was not one word in his speech regarding the rights of Indians, who were stripped from their land by the Americans, or the situation in jails, where blacks and Puerto Ricans are humiliated. After asserting that Washington should start to clean its own house, the Cuban foreign vice minister asked why the United States does not invite, as Cuba did, a UN delegation to visit its jails, Indian reservations, and black neighborhoods.

He also remembered that those detained in Cuba were detained because they violated laws and were tried by appropriate tribunals in accordance to the Constitution and codes.

Havana Notes New Soviet Disarmament Proposal

FL0603215989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2132 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The proposal to reduce armed forces in Europe announced in Vienna today by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has been covered broadly and quickly by the USSR media. Radio, television, and the TASS news agency swiftly reported the new Soviet initiative announced at the beginning of the talks and Shevardnadze himself called it one of a kind.

The new USSR offer calls for a reduction of armed forces in the old continent in three stages, down to levels the Soviet foreign minister defined as strictly sufficient for defense. The first stage of this process should take from 2 to 3 years, attempting to end the imbalances existing between NATO and Warsaw treaty members.

Meeting on Economic, Trade Problems with Japan

FL2802191389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The executives of the Cuba-Japan economic conferences today began 3 days of meetings at the Palace of Conventions after a 3-year recess due to several types of objective difficulties. Businessmen from 10 Japanese corporations and officials from 6 Cuban organizations are participating in the forum.

The Cuban delegation is headed by Ricardo Cabrisas and the Japanese delegation is headed by (Mitsu Hueda). The two officials will also preside over their respective conferences. The delegations from the two countries are seeking ways and means to resolve difficulties and develop bilateral ties in trade, technical cooperation, tourism, and finance.

In his welcoming remarks, Cabrisas expressed his appreciation for the understanding received from the Japanese businessmen during the course of bilateral relations. He also stressed that our country will never forget this gesture.

(Mitsu Hueda) said the goal of the Japanese delegation is to exchange criteria to resolve the problems that exist in economic and trade ties between Cuba and Japan.

Vice President Meets Businessmen

FL0303125489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has met in Havana with executives of important firms that are members of the Japan-Cuba Economic Conference. The Cuban leader expressed his satisfaction with the group's visit. The Japanese delegation is headed by (Mitsu Hueda).

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez gave a briefing on the Cuban economy. He also responded to questions from the group on the country's future line of development, in reference to relations with the United States, and on prospects for the foreign debt.

Mr (Hueda) expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the group, for the attention and information received. At the same time, (Hueda) expressed the group's intention to keep working on the development of economic relations between Cuba and Japan.

Mexican Delegation Visits Scientific Institute

FL0203213389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2035 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] To strengthen the ties of scientific and teaching cooperation in the agricultural-livestock sector, a delegation of students and professors from the university in the state of Guerrero, in the brother country of Mexico, has visited the Fructuoso Rodriguez Higher Institute of Agricultural-Livestock Sciences in San Jose de las Lajas.

Tomorrow, Friday, an agreement will be signed at 1900. The agreement guarantees the exchange of information via reports.

Pope Receives New Ambassador's Credentials

FL0403124889 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Pope John Paul II has noted the atmosphere of dialogue and better understanding existing between the ecclesiastical hierarchy and the Cuban Government. The supreme pontiff made these remarks as he received the credentials of Fermin Rodriguez Paz, new Cuban ambassador to the Holy See.

The pope expressed his affection for the sons of the Cuban nation and responded to the deferential greetings sent by President Fidel Castro. At the same time, the supreme pontiff sent the Cuban ruler his best wishes for material and spiritual prosperity of the nation.

His Holiness John Paul agreed with the Cuban diplomat that the foreign debt constitutes an instability factor that has negative effects in foreign relations. He characterized the debt as an element that threatens many developing countries.

John Paul also expressed the resolved will of the Catholic Church in Cuba to cooperate, within its religious and moral mission, in favor of the material and spiritual prosperity of the Cuban nation.

Boston Archbishop Meets With Fidel Castro

FL0303123589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Boston Archbishop Bernard Francis Law has ended a 4-day private visit to Cuba.

The U.S. prelate was received here by President Fidel Castro, with whom he spoke at length in a cordial atmosphere. Cardinal Law also met with Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Faustino Saenz Munoz and with members of the Episcopal Conference.

Ecuadoran Training Ship Arrives in Havana

FL0203203189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Ecuador's "Guayas" training ship has arrived in the port of Havana on an official and friendly visit. The public will be able to visit it on Friday and Saturday from 1400 to 1800 and on Sunday from 1000 to 1430. The "Guayas" is a training ship and, at the same time, an Ecuadoran Navy flagship. It was built at Spanish shipyards 12 years ago. Since then, it has made several international trips totaling 180,000 miles; that is, almost eight times around the world. The name of this sailing ship recalls the brave Indian chief of the Huancavilca tribe who lived during pre-Spanish times in what is now the port of Guayaquil. [passage omitted]

Further on Ship's Arrival

FL0203211889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The training bark "Guayas" arrived today at the international docks in Havana. The ship came from Guayaquil and is effecting a friendly and nonofficial visit to our country to strengthen the fraternal ties that unite the people of Cuba and Ecuador.

Frigate Captain (Fernando Donozo), commander of the sail ship, and its over 150 crew members will remain in Cuba until 6 March. They will take the opportunity to visit centers of historical and social interest on the island.

The "Guayas" is a brigantine-type sail ship built with the highest quality steel and the most modern technology presently being used. The ship is 78.40 meters long and has a cargo capacity of 1,153 tons. The "Guayas" can navigate by sail and engine.

The bark's name honors the leader of the Huancavilca tribe which, during pre-Colombian times, was located in what is present-day Guayaquil.

World Food Program Helps Develop Dairies

FL0403165289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] The State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE] and the World Food Program [WFP] signed an agreement today to materialize the second phase of the project called Cuba 2702 in the development of the dairy sector in the Jimaguayu Basin, Camaguey Province. (Mauricio Gnochi), regional director of the WFP for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, signed the document.

Through this agreement, the WFP—which is a United Nation's organization—will donate to Cuba $23 million for the increase of milk production during the 1989-1991 period. The development of this project in Camaguey Province started some years ago by the Cuban Government with the help of the WFP. This has brought not only improvements in milk production but also in other integral aspects of socioeconomic development.

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker, in progress] ...that is, construction of new dairies. A total of—I believe—160 new dairies are going to be built in 6 dairy enterprises. In addition, an investment of pasture and fodder products in some 26,000 hectares in the public sector area and some 18,000 hectares in the cooperatives sector will be made.

[Unidentified reporter] Can a similar project be applied in other areas of our country, of Cuba?

[Speaker] Yes, I believe that it will be possible to repeat it in another area. We have already discussed some ideas with those who are responsible for the project and with CECE leaders, CECE President Ernesto Melendez. We have discussed the idea of applying the same modality of the project to Las Tunas Province. [end recording]

Castro Congratulates Group for Road Completion

FL0703040289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The contingent that completed the road to Covarrubias Beach in Las Tunas has been congratulated by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Our reporter from that province expands on the report.

[Unidentified reporter] The completion of the road to the Covarrubias Beach in Las Tunas Province has been the top news in all the country's media because of the example and dedication of its entire collective which left it ready in a little over 10 months.

Francisco Garcia Ferrer, first secretary of the party in the province, said at the completion ceremony that only a few hours ago our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, upon learning about the report, referred to the Brigade One of the Victoria de Playa Giron contingent as an example among the collectives that are working with the new rectification style. [passage omitted]

MININT Vice Minister Interviewed

FL0703030089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0053 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Interview with Division General [title as heard] Fabian Escalante Font, member of the PCC Politburo, vice minister of the Interior Ministry, MININT, and director of its Central Political Directorate, by Felix Fernando Garrido during "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] [Garrido] Greetings to all Rebelde's "Exclusivo" listeners. Also, good evening to you Daniel. That is right,

as you just announced, I am at the office of Division General Fabian Escalante Font, member of the PCC Politburo and chief of the Central Political Directorate of the MININT. I welcome him to "Exclusivo" and wish him good evening. Good evening, general.

[Escalante] Good evening, Garrido.

[Garrido] We could say that the most important MININT meeting for the year that just ended, 1988, was just held. This meeting was presided over by the commander in chief and the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and second secretary of the PCC Central Committee. What were the main experiences and results of this general meeting and the main working guidelines that came out from this analysis?

[Escalante] Well, first of all I would like to say that this is the third time this kind of meeting was held. This meeting, held at the initiative of our minister, Comrade Division General Jose Abrantes Fernandez, was first held in 1987. We have attempted to make an analysis, a balance of the activities carried out by our ministry starting from the solving of deficiencies and the increase of efficiency of work. In this meeting, as in the previous ones, an in-depth analysis was made of the main lines of the MININT. In this case, I am referring to the National Revolutionary Police, the Prisons General Directorate, Fire Protection General Directorate, the Central Political Directorate, and other directorates which reported back to the commander in chief, the second secretary, and the main leaders of the party and government.

I believe this has been a very useful meeting. It allowed our party's leadership to learn about the paths we are taking, the ministry's main problems, and how we are preparing to overcome them. I believe that the most outstanding or one of the most outstanding moments of this meeting was the report presented by Brigade General Alberto Garcia Intensa. He gave an overview of crime during 1988 and the measures the ministry has been taking to increase police efficiency. It is evident that the measures taken began to show results during the months of October, November, and December. There has been a drop of criminal activity. Of course, to obtain these results one has to highlight the important participation, the work carried out by the Committees of the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] and our people through night watchers, the CDR guards, and the support given—I would say spontaneously—to the work performed by our PNR.

I believe this coming year is very important. Of course, we believe that not all problems have been solved. We still have to work a lot but the measures that have been taken.... [changes thought] The atmosphere created among all the chiefs, officers, combatants of the MININT, because of the acknowledgement made by the commander in chief and the second secretary of our party, Comrade Raul, and the accurate and permanent guidance of our minister regarding the deficiencies we have to overcome.... [changes thought] I believe it will be an incentive so that 1989 can be a year of greater results so we can arrive at the party's fourth congress with a favorable operational situation so that we can guarantee that idea expressed by Fidel in one of his previous meetings with the ministry in which he said our ministry provided citizen safety and that that safety in our country was also an achievement of socialism.

[Garrido] I believe that what I have to say is something similar. The interior minister has said that the people and the MININT combatant are united by ties of cooperation, brotherhood, and mutual respect; but also men, the means, and techniques evolve and require more and more training. What is the MININT doing regarding this?

[Escalante] We have a broad training program in the ministry's various lines. Basically, many efforts and resources have been used in the National Revolutionary Police. Currently we have several specialized training courses which include infantry police, line police, and more specialized activities such as legal training, criminal police, economic police, area chiefs, etc. I believe the decision made by the minister in 1986 was very important, the decision to dedicate efforts and resources to the strengthening of the PNR Academy. We already began to receive the first graduates of these schools in various units in 1989. They will surely contribute so that efficiency level increases this year.

[Garrido] Can we end by saying that the demand of Fidel and the revolution, that the MININT provide citizen safety, is in the hands of the men and the will of each one of its combatants?

[Escalante] Indeed Garrido, this is the goal that all combatants, officers, generals, and chiefs of the MININT have. I believe that we can assure that in 1990, the year of the fourth congress, the year of surely an in-depth analysis of this rectification process initiated by the commander in chief in our country, the MININT will show its results and the efforts made. I believe that Fidel's and our people's demands that our ministry provide safety for that citizen will be complied with.

Espin Notes Need To Produce Goods for Tourists

FL0203200089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Awards for the cutting contest sponsored by the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] have been presented within the framework of the third national meeting of local industry designers being held at the Basic Industry Cadres School in our capital. Vilma Espin, member of the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] Politburo and president of the FMC, presided over the presentation of the awards to the artisans with outstanding work because of their quality and creativity. The jury recognized the one presented by Granma Province as the

best group work. Earlier, the FMC president toured the exposition which includes personal effects, household, decorative, and textile goods produced by local industries in the entire country.

[Begin Espin recording] They have been assessing the work. We believe we have to continue with the [word indisinct] and the comrades who have trained some designers and little by little reach a high level of design. Many efforts, initiatives, and creations are being made. Some are of a higher and others of lower level. Some have very good designs. Undoubtedly, as I was saying, we have to assess them as soon as possible for us to approve the prototypes and present the best ones to the artisans. From the point of view of tourism, we have the duty with the country to produce things that appear to be Cuban so that tourists can purchase them as Cuban goods of high quality. [end recording]

PCC Member, Light Industry Official Dies

FL0103134889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Dora Cosme Diaz, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, directress of the National Light Industry Workers Union, [and first vice minister of light industry], was buried yesterday.

Antonio Esquivel, minister of light industry, gave the eulogy for Dora Cosme. Cosme began working at a very early age and joined the revolutionary tasks, always showing a spirit of improvement and work.

Vilma Espin and Jorge Risquet, both members of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, attended the burial. Also present were relatives, as well as comrades of the light industry and the party.

Dominican Republic

Former Consuls Deny Jorge Blanco Account Exists

FL0603171189 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias in Spanish 0919 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Former consuls of Salvador Jorge Blanco's administration are preparing their response to the accusation made by the Republic's comptroller general, who said there was a bank account to benefit the former head of state.

According to the former diplomats, the accusation made by Lic Jose Antonio Guzman Alvarez is not true. They said they are working on the final details of the answer they will give the official. The former diplomats met last Saturday at the house of former President Salvador Jorge Blanco, where they said that in the next few days they will respond to the accusation of the Republic's comptroller general.

According to Guzman Alvarez, the money in the account came from the consulates abroad.

Liberation Party Swears In 200 New Members

FL0103141889 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1122 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The 27 February Intermediate Committee of the Dominican Liberation Party [PLD] took advantage of the ceremonies to mark the 145th anniversary of the independence of the Dominican Republic to swear in more than 200 new members and [word indistinct]. The activity took place in the Napolitano Hotel and it was presided over by Prof Lidio Cadet, secretary general of the PLD, and Lic Toni Matias, secretary general of the 27 February Intermediate Committee.

Electricity Workers Seek Collective Agreement

FL0103144689 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1125 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] (Emilio Valles), secretary general of the Dominican Electricity Corporation Trade Union, Sitracode, announced the beginning of the fight for a new collective pact when he spoke at the ceremony marking the 27th anniversary of the union.

[Begin (Valles) recording, in progress] ...27 years of dignity and pride for the workers, particularly the workers of the Dominican Electricity Corporation [CDE]. We also take the opportunity at this ceremony during this anniversary week to state our great solidarity with the striking teachers and we call on the government to resolve this conflict by meeting their demands.

We also announce that this month, March, the fight will begin in the CDE for the signing of a new collective agreement on working conditions, which was put on hold by President Joaquin Balaguer on 16 June 1988. Our organization is contemplating a series of plans for this fight to ensure that our collective pact on working conditions will definitely be signed so that we can thus maintain a situation in accordance with the cost of living in this country.

In this way, we are officially announcing the beginning of the fight for a new collective pact in the CDE. We also ask the government to resolve the conflict with the teachers and we announce our plan to fight for a new collective agreement on working conditions. [end recording]

Haiti

Press Release on Radio Soleil's 'Problem'

FL0703002289 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer identified as Liliane] What has kept Radio Soleil silent since this morning? Our colleagues issued a press release in Port-au-Prince today in

which they explain Radio Soleil's problem. In it they declare their solidarity with Father Hugo Triest, who is still director of Radio Soleil at present.

[Announcer identified as Sonny] Good evening, everyone. Is everyone still hanging in there? Here is Declaration No 1 from the Radio Soleil team.

Radio Soleil's broadcasts stopped at around 0600 on Monday 6 March 1989 after four guards responsible for the transmitter base, which is located at (Troutier) on the Plaine [du Cul de Sac], decided to stop the 10-kilowatt transmitter. They said they had decided to do this as an expression of solidarity with Mr (Ramotus), the radio's former technical authority who was fired last 28 February. The guards demanded to meet with a bishop, the team that runs the radio, and (Ramotus) himself.

Immediately after learning this, Radio Soleil Director Father Hugo Triest went out to see what was going on at the plain. He noted, on site, that the gates were shut and the guards refused to talk to him. Two hours later, several other members of the Radio Soleil team who had gone out to join the priest at the transmitter site noted that the matter was not a simple one. Other people in the area had come and gotten involved.

In the face of this situation, Father Hugo Triest decided right then and there to go on a hunger strike until a solution to the problem is found. Up to the moment that we wrote this declaration, there was no bishop available to participate in negotiations. Msgr Constant, the president of the Council for Social Communications within the church and president of Radio Soleil's board of directors, said in a telephone conversation with a member of Radio Soleil's administration that he would not intervene in the matter—not before the meeting of the Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH] next 14 March.

The firing of (Ramotus) is based on a matter of principle. Father Hugo had hired him in order to try to find a first solution to the crisis Radio Soleil is experiencing.

In a letter sent to the CEH on Thursday 2 March, the members of the Radio Soleil team expressed their agreement with the firing of (Ramotus) and their support for Father Hugo in the face of the CEH's reluctance to accept the decision. Meanwhile, all the members of the team are on the scene and willing to continue to work in the service of the church and the nation in solidarity with Father Hugo Triest with a view to the evangelization, education, information, and entertainment of all.

Radio Soleil, Port-au-Prince, 6 March 1989

This press release was issued by the radio at around 1130. It bears many signatures. We will read some of them for you: Yves-Marie Chanel, Emmanuel Cantave, Morrison Charles, Marie-Yolaine Roumain, Josue Vilfranc, Jean Francois, Marie-Josee Casimir, Maxim Phanor, Pierre Lucien, Joseph Georges, Gaston Pierre, Eddy Louis-Jacques, Monique Vincent, (Pierre Richard Medi), Garcon J.—I can't make out that name too clearly—Claudette Depestre. All these people signed the letter.

[Liliane] There is also (Michel Favard), in the corner there.

[Sonny] There are many signatures. More than 10.

This statement, which bears the number one, is signed by Radio Soleil's journalists and announcers.

We remind listeners that last week one of the bishops, Msgr Petion Laroche, issued a statement in which he announced that the church hierarchy was going to do everything it could—without saying that there was a crisis—to find someone to replace Father Hugo Triest, whose contract—said the bishop in his note—was at an end. [passage omitted]

The church hierarchy gave no details as to why they had issued that statement. However, there have been many little rumors circulating since then to the effect that there were problems at Radio Soleil.

One of our reporters went out to the Soleil transmitter site in the plain this morning but he was unable to talk to the men who had shut the gate and refused to allow Father Hugo Triest to enter the transmitter site's yard. The men wrote a note saying they were asking to meet with the entire five-member board of directors. Thus, they refused to talk to Father Hugo alone.

The previously mentioned letter says, then, that Father Hugo went on a hunger strike this morning. Father Hugo says he is not budging from in front of the gate to the transmitter site.

Electricite d'Haiti Vehicle, Employee Shot

FL0603190989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The big news these days is the continuing insecurity in both the capital and our provincial towns. People are going around at night armed and wearing military uniforms—mostly olive green—and shooting at passing vehicles, stopping cars and searching people, and even shooting at passers-by. Everyone has to rush home as of 2000 because of the climate of insecurity that settles over Haiti as of 2100.

We have reports that an Electricite d'Haiti [EDH, the national electric company] vehicle was shot at. An EDH employee was hit in the foot by a bullet.

According to this employee it was a man clad in an olive green military uniform and armed with a heavy-caliber weapon who fired at the EDH vehicle. Thank God, this employee was not killed. He was, however, hit in the foot by a bullet. He is being treated at the hospital. This

incident occurred last night [Sunday 5 March]. The incident occurred at about 2300 near the intersection with Blvd Jean-Jacques Dessalines, the Grand Rue—between the Grand Rue and Rue Saint Martin.

Since EDH is an institution that works around the clock, its employees are obliged to be in the streets at night, working.

EDH Union Leader on Company's Problems

FL0603202889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] At 1030 this morning, the secretary general of the EDH employees union, Mr (Dickens Raphael), held a news conference at the lunchroom at the EDH plant in order to inform public opinion of a state of affairs that is unfavorable to the direct interests of EDH employees and customers [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

(Raphael) gave to understand that these reasons are generalized corruption in the plant's administration; the unjustified increase in price of electricity—which, he stressed, also affects union members, since they too are customers of the company's; the $21 million per year net deficit that has been appearing for some time on the company's profit and loss balance sheets; and, finally, the dilatory maneuvers of certain bigshots, who are seeking to shut down the plant in order to later see it privatized, to their benefit.

It is for these reasons, Mr (Raphael) said, that the union calls on the population to struggle at its side in order to together turn things around to their common benefit and to the benefit of the nation's other institutions.

In order to do this, the union demands to be allowed to take an active part in the management of the company, so that, among other things, the service it provides may no longer be a luxury but rather a basic, which everyone can afford. Listen to him redefine the objectives pursued by his union.

[Begin (Raphael) recording, in Creole] The way the union sees the matter is as follows: First, we must be able to lower the price of electricity, which is too expensive. The union must also work to improve the service that the EDH is offering. I mean, there should not be power failures all the time like that! No.

And that is what the union was struggling for during the summer of 1987, when the union was victimized by a number of bigshots who instead of agreeing to let the workers participate—for the workers feel they too have a right to put in their say as to how the company is running—preferred to fire us.

However, we think that the condition the company is in today shows that the union was right. Money disappears from this company in strange ways, and to this day there has never been any clear explanation for it.

We will give a little example, one out of many examples: $611,000 have disappeared, and it has been said that the matter is in the hands of the courts. However, to this day, the workers themselves, who are the first victims, don't know what happened to this $611,000.

And that is what we are struggling for today. We want to know where the $611,000 worth of our sweat went. Where did the nation's $611,000 go? Since the EDH is the property of the government, it is the property of everyone. [end recording]

Mr (Raphael) said that the company is on the verge of bankruptcy, and if the population does not join with the union in order to thwart the ill-intentioned plans of this country's bigshots—who put it in this delicate situation—the company will disappear. That is why all those both inside and outside the company who sanction the maneuvers—to the detriment of the company—of the corrupt men of the last three governments that the country has had will be uprooted [dechouke], at any cost, (Raphael) further said. [passage omitted]

Journalist Threatened in Cap-Haitien 3 Mar

FL0603184789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Report by Cap-Haitien correspondent Jimmy Prophete—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Hugh Florvil, a journalist and reporter for Radio Cap-Haitien, who is also the correspondent for Radio Haiti-Inter [in Port-au-Prince] and who teaches literature in several private schools in Cap-Haitien, was the victim of aggression at approximately 2350 Friday night by a certain (Bob Lecorps) in front of the radio station, right after recording his cultural broadcast named "Kalfou", which is broadcast every Saturday at 0700.

The aggressor, (Bob Lecorps), has the reputation of being the best known bandit and mafioso [preceding word in Italian] terrorizing Cap-Haitien—ever since he returned from the United States. He always manages to get out of his many difficulties with the police and the Justice Department. In Cap-Haitien, people believe him to be protected by certain authorities, both military and civilian, who use him. Continuing along his infamous path, he is now attacking journalists.

Hugh Florvil, whom we interviewed, tells us how it happened.

[Begin Florvil recording] [Passage omitted] There were four of us. [passage omitted] We were standing in front of the radio talking about the program we had just recorded when we saw a big black car appear in front of us. He threatened the four of us who were standing there. [passage omitted]

We thought it best to not even answer him and to leave. [passage omitted] I had only gotten some 5 or 10 meters away when his car appeared in front of me. [passage omitted] When he got out of his car, he threatened me outright. He had a weapon in his hand. He (?shook his fist at me). He said that it was us, communists and so forth, who were erecting barricades in the streets and all that.

When he (?shook his fist) at me, I controlled myself, for I had no weapon whereas he himself was armed; so I [words indistinct] left. The car which I was in still had the motor running. I took off. He started following my car, with I don't know what intentions. [passage omitted]

I finally brought the car to a stop at the marketplace and, I think, because I had quite a bit of self-control, that I managed not to run over people who were sleeping on the ground in the street. I just stopped the car there. [passage omitted] I left the key in the car and fled. [end recording]

Finally, we must add that Hugh Florvil claimed that he has never (?had anything to do with) his aggressor, and that he cannot understand why (Bob Lecorps) would want to hurt him.

This is Jimmy Prophete in Cap-Haitien for Radio Metropole.

Group Attempts To Hijack Boat for Miami

FL0603185989 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Our correspondent in Petit Goave, Marcel Thomas, informs us that this weekend, some 100 persons—among them soldiers from Petit Goave—tried to hijack a boat to go to Miami. However, the attempt failed, says Thomas.

[Thomas] [Passage omitted] At about 0300 Saturday morning, everyone in Petit Goave was suddenly awakened by the sound of gunfire. A group of armed people seized the boat ("Winigel")—which was in the port of Petit Goave—tied up the crew and asked the captain to take them to Miami. Thus the boat took off. However, the captain outsmarted them by running the boat aground on a reef near (Carrenage), very near Petit Goave. This forced many people to throw themselves into the sea.

According to people (?who were among the hijackers), there were many military men in the group, including four policemen stationed at the Petit Goave barracks and others stationed at other barracks. We don't know how many victims there were, but the body of one young man was found on the beach very near where the boat ran aground.

That same night, that same team of men, after this attempt failed, stole a yacht belonging to Robert Acra and fled on it. At this moment we still don't know where they went.

This affair is causing much talk in Petit Goave, where the police are holding in custody three people who participated in this affair plus one policeman who turned himself in.

We are following events and will keep you informed.

This is Marcel Thomas from Petit Goave for Radio Metropole.

Jamaica

Prime Minister Replaces Central Bank Governor

FL0303175589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1713 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 3, CANA—The new Michael Manley government has removed Central Bank Governor Dr Headley Brown and asked one of his deputies, Dr Owen Jefferson, to act in the position.

Manley's finance minister, Seymour Mullins, announced Thursday night that Brown had been sent on leave "with immediate effect," pending reappointment in the civil service. The removal of Brown, who became central bank governor in November 1985, was expected after Manley's Peoples National Party (PNP) won the February 9 general election here.

In opposition, the PNP had accused Brown, who was the trade administrator during Manley's 1970's government, of taking on a political role in what was considered to be a public touting and partisan defence of the policies of former prime minister, Edward Seaga. Last year Brown was also involved in a press debate over the quality of policies and management during Manley's previous government with Dr Omar Davies, who has now been appointed as head of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ).

Brown was the director general of the PIOJ before joining the Central Bank, and had in the 1970's, also served as a senior technocrat there under its former name, the National Planning Agency.

Jefferson has been a senior official at the Central Bank since 1978, and previously acted as governor between 1981 and 1982. He joined the bank from the Ministry of Finance to which he had originally been seconded from his post as a senior lecturer in the department of economics at the University of the West Indies (UWI). Jefferson recently spent a year on secondment as an adviser at the Economic Secretariat of the Organisation of East Caribbean States in Antigua.

National Security Minister on Drug Measures

FL0303185289 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpt] National Security Minister K.D. Knight said he is satisfied that none of the arms from the shipment bound to Colombia, which was intercepted in Jamaica last December, were left in Jamaica.

Mr Knight, who addressed the breakfast meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce of Jamaica this morning, said he is unable to say absolutely that none of the arms are still on the island, but that he is satisfied with the report from the Security Forces. He said the shipment of arms was taken to Up Park Camp where it was checked in the presence of security and customs personnel of the highest integrity.

In outlining some of the initiatives the government is to take in guaranteeing [word indistinct] exports, Mr Knight said a drug intelligence unit will be established to collect and analyze all information on the movement of drugs. He also said the United States Drug Enforcement Agency will continue to operate on the island, as they have been doing since the mid-seventies. [passage omitted]

Nation Could Fail IMF Criteria, Warns Manley

FL0603201289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1837 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 6, CANA—Prime Minister Michael Manley warned Sunday night that Jamaica could have difficulty meeting International Monetary Fund (IMF) performance criteria this month, because of overestimates and profligate pre-election spending by the former Edward Seaga administration.

Manley, elected in the February 9 general election here, said in a television broadcast the budget spending targets for the end of March had already been bust by the time of the election, and that projected foreign exchange inflows necessary to pass the IMF tests were at the "most, optimistic". Loans were also held up because of government dereliction, Manley claimed.

"It is even more astonishing that while we were discovering this sorry state of affairs, statements were issued from high places to the effect that there would be no problem in passing the IMF tests," Manley said. "...I have now put whole teams of people to work to bring this mess into some kind of order," Manley said.

On his last day in office on February 13, Seaga told central bank staff that Jamaica was on course for passing the March IMF tests and repeated this a week ago at a Kingston press conference.

Seaga reached a new U.S. 114 million dollar stand-by facility with the IMF last August, which was to run for 14 months.

However, after Hurricane Gilbert last September which caused severe destruction and set back the economy, the fund agreed to soften criteria and to give more time to complete the programme.

Manley said that much of the revised programme was based on expected loan inflows and foreign re-insurance payments to meet hurricane claims. "Upon taking office we found that the loan progamme was in a state of complete disarray," the prime minister said.

In some cases, he claimed, proper documentation did not exist "so that reimbursements were not arriving. In other cases loan agreements requiring signatures have remained unsigned for upwards of two months," Manley said.

Manley did not give a figure on the loans held up because of such delays, but after the hurricane Seaga had said that Jamaica had raised over U.S. 600 million dollars in aid.

"As far as the re-insurance money is concerned, we found that the target figures had been calculated on the most optimistic basis possible, and assuming that disbursement under this heading would all be done at maximum speed," Manley remarked.

Jamaica had forecast that re-insurance inflows could reach up to U.S. 800 million dollars, much of it coming before the end of the current fiscal year.

The prime minister noted that there were also "strict limits" on government budget spending up to the end of March. "But we have found that by February that spending had been proceeding so fast, and at such volumes as to put us right against the agreed limits as of February 9," Manley said.

The pre-election spending, Manley charged, "was like a run-away cart down a steep hill. We have had to issue strict orders clamping down on expenditure," Manley said.

PNP Government Wants To Increase Production

FL0603160089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1934 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 4, CANA—Jamaica's foreign affairs and foreign trade minister, David Coore, says the new People's National Party (PNP) government wants to place emphasis on increased domestic production of goods.

Coore, on his first overseas trip since the February 9 general elections and who returned the PNP to power after eight years, gave a wide-ranging interview during a break from the Caribbean community trade minister's meeting which ended this weekend in Port-of-Spain.

Asked what would be some of the main changes in financial policy following the switch from the administration of Edward Seaga to Michael Manley, Coore said production would receive a new impetus. "We feel that

what we need in Jamaica right now is a much greater emphasis on production," Coore, a former finance minister from 1972 to 1978, told reporters here.

"While there are limits to what you can do having regard to the fact that we have an IMF (International Monetary Fund) programme and there are certain perimeters which we have to exist within, we would like to see our taxation regime, our incentive regime, our fiscal policies, other policies geared towards encouraging the productive sector as distinct from the purely distributive or trading sector," he added.

"Obviously the distributive sector is important; we're not saying it's not, but we feel that not enough has been done to encourage, to motivate, to mobilise the productive sector. This is one big difference as far as general financial policy is concerned, probably the main difference, I would say," he remarked.

Coore said this would include agriculture and agroindustry but he criticised the approach by Seaga's administration to apply high technology to agricultural development. "We doubt very much if this experiment in high-tech agriculture which the previous government started is really the way to go. Obviously, there has to be an increase in technological skills that are put into agriculture but we think that we are more likely to succeed on the basis of giving special encouragement to the small- and medium-sized farmer helping him to increase his technique and skills, the inputs that are avaiable to him, helping him with financing and so on."

Asked to comment on the new administration's dealing with the IMF, which it battled with in the 1970's when last in office, Coore said both the PNP and the Washington-based fund had changed over the last decade.

Perhaps some of the pain and agony we went through with them at that time was not entirely in vain," he remarked. "Other countries have had similar experiences as us and a lot of evolution has gone on in the thinking of the IMF," Coore said.

The new minister said some of the IMF policies reflected this change which was not on a fundamental level, "but there are different nuances and different emphases...and our impression is that the IMF has become significantly more flexible in its approach to economic adjustment programmes."

Coore warned that this did not mean easy-going negotiations but that there had been changes in thinking on both the IMF's and JLP's [Jamaica Labor Party] side, bringing the two closer together.

Asked about a further devaluation of the Jamaican dollar suggested this week by the FINANCIAL TIMES of London, Coore said devaluation was only one "weapon in the armoury of weapons available to an economy for dealing with a situation where you have a trade imbalance, excessive demand and shortage of resources and so on. At the moment, we don't see that the devaluation weapon is called for, is necessary, or is desirable," Coore said.

Coore also spoke out against the boasts of the previous administration of achieving economic development. "You cannot separate economic development from social development because...one is necessary in order to achieve the other," Coore said.

"You're not likely to achieve sustained economic development unless you have a population that is educated, skilled, that is healthy and that is reasonably well housed so that you create the conditions of social stability." He added, "we believe it is a fundamental error to say that you have to wait until, somehow or other, you're going to achieve this level of economic development before you can look after the social needs," Coore said, adding that created a political problem and frustrated economic aims.

He reaffirmed the need to continue strengthening gains already made in intra-regional trade. Coore, who was joined by Jamaica's industry and commerce minister, Claude Clarke, at the Caricom meeting, said separate talks could be used to overcome individual barriers.

"We start from the position of not just the theoretical commitment but a determination to do everything we can to reduce, on our part, whatever barriers may exist in our situation against the proper functioning of the Caricom system and to insist that other countries do the same," Coore said.

Coore said discussions were yet to take place on the future of industrial, export and investment promotion agency, Jampro.

On the issue of political union between Caricom countries, Coore said that, to be realistic, this could not be on most country's immediate agenda "in so far as some of the countries are concerned, the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) countries, they have been making very positive moves. From our perspective, we wish them well...because they have already gone a long way...and political integration may be a logical next step for them.

For the other countries of the region, the idea of reviving the political federation...is just not on anybody's agenda right now. It's more important for us to work at the practical thing...improving economic cooperation at all levels, setting up mechanisms to improve the free flow of capital, cooperating in as many common institutions as we can, things like the Caribbean Court of Appeal and so on," Coore said. That is where we think attention and energy ought to be focused, Coore said.

Coore also spoke in favour of a Caribbean Stock Exchange but he said that the idea, first suggested by Manley while in opposition, was still something which

needed to be agreed to in principle. He pointed out that one of the obligations under the Caricom treaty was to work towards a free flow of capital which could be achieved through a stock exchange or mechanisms allowing investment in each territory's exchanges.

Union Wants Government To Make Strike Legal

FL0603171289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1421 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 5, CANA—An opposition-aligned trade union in Jamaica has moved early to have new Prime Minister Michael Manley keep a promise to legislate the right to strike.

The Bustamante Industrial Trade Union [BITU] wrote Labour Minister Portia Simpson Friday suggesting that she pursue the issue because of labour movement concern on the matter.

The Jamaican courts 4 years ago ruled that workers who went on strikes repudiated their contracts and employers could fire them. "We consider that the decision is out of touch with reality..." said BITU Vice-President Lascelles Beckford.

The BITU is aligned to the Jamaica Labour Party [JLP], which was last month voted out of office after 8 years in power.

Under the former government of now opposition leader, Edward Seaga, the Jamaican Trade Union movement lost much of its clout, particularly after a mishandled general strike in 1985. In addition to being put down by Seaga, the courts in several cases ruled against trade unions, putting into question the right to strike which had long been taken for granted.

Manley in opposition had promised to state that right clearly in labour legislation, but the issue did not feature in his party's manifesto for the February election.

The BITU told Simpson that its delegates had in October 1987 passed a resolution calling for an amendment to ensure the right to strike in pursuance of a labour dispute.

Trinidad and Tobago

Opposition Criticizes Reshuffling of Cabinet

FL2702162689 Bridgetown CANA in English 2024 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 25, CANA—Critics of the Trinidad and Tobago Government say Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson's February 23 cabinet reorganisation will not significantly impact on the economy.

"If you have 18 jokers in a pack and you shuffle that pack, you still have 18 jokers. That is precisely what the cabinet reshuffle...showed me and the national community," opposition leader Patrick Manning told CANA. "There has been no injection of new blood in any way into the government of Trinidad and Tobago," Manning said. Robinson on Thursday announced he was bringing two new faces into his cabinet, extending it to 18, and reorganising some portfolios.

Manning questioned Robinson's analysis of the economy as now moving out of the first stage of adjustment into a phase of investment and job creation.

"The adjustment, everybody knows, is going to be with us for some time," Manning said citing the time frames for adjustment laid out by government under its 14-month standby programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "We are going to be in a period of adjustment at least until 1991 and then only if the government's measures work and it appears to us they will not," Manning said.

Manning also claimed that the reshuffle was aimed at moving Attorney General Selwyn Richardson, who held the post with Manning's Peoples National Movement (PNM) in the 1970s, to the national security and justice portfolio for a certain purpose.

"Having regard for his reputation and what I know of him, it appears to me that the government expects that it will have to declare a state of emergency later in the year," Manning said.

Manning also accused Robinson of taking himself "out of the firing line" by giving the finance portfolio to junior Finance Minister Selby Wilson whilst keeping control by maintaining the economy portfolio.

"Mr Wilson's elevation...I hope is as a result of his ability and not as a result of his expendabilty," Manning said.

A former junior finance minister, Trevor Sudama, kicked out of the government in February for his criticisms against Robinson and the ruling party, also knocked Robinson's giving up of the finance portfolio and his analysis of the economy.

"We knew before the (December 1986) elections that you had to concentrate on agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and tourism; it is two years and 25 months [as received] late," Sudama told CANA.

Sudama added that projects identification should have been done during the first few months of the administration which would have helped to turn around the economy. Describing the announcements as "a lot of talk", Sudama said a large amount of infrastructure needed to be put in place to really get the neglected agricultural sector going: "You can't conceivably plan to spend 75 million dollars (one TT dollar: 23.5 U.S. cents) out of a total development budget of anything like 1.3 billion dollars and convince anybody that you're serious about promoting agricultural development."

"It's a large group and getting larger everytime. There's a problem facing the prime minister's power; he brings more ministers into his cabinet," former works minister, John Humphrey, told the house during a contribution to a debate on crime Friday.

Humphrey, who was the first prime minister to be expelled in a November 1987 reshuffle, said: "He brings more ministers into his cabinet to ensure that he gets more support because he must have the majority here to remain prime minister."

New National Security Minister Against Drugs

FL0203230989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1553 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 2, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's new national security minister, Selwyn Richardson, said here Wednesday he is committed to stepping up the fight against drugs and white collar crime.

Speaking to reporters the day he took over in the aftermath of last Thursday's cabinet reshuffle, Richardson announced plans for a new white collar crime unit to deal with the growing incidences of thefts in office jobs. Richardson replaces Senator Herbert Atwell who was made energy minister.

Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson reshuffled the cabinet Thursday in changes which took effect this Wednesday stating that his 26-month administration was getting down to business on certain key issues including turning around the oil-based economy and stepping up welfare measures to offset economic hardships.

"In the last six months particularly, a lot of action has been taken against drug barons and I intend not only to continue that but to intensify that," Richardson said after a meeting with top police and defence officials Wednesday. "They had their way for much too long," he added.

Richardson described the new white collar crime unit as a sort of police taskforce aimed at eliminating or controlling such crime.

Richardson, formerly attorney general, is now be in charge of a new portfolio—justice and national security—a joint office which has raised criticism from some quarters. Richardson stated that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) office will remain under Richardson's former junior minister, now attorney general, Anthony Smart.

Richardson will help the smooth running of the judiciary "without again in anyway interfering in the separation of powers of the roles of the executive, the legislative and the judiciary," the new minister said.

Labor Unions Call for 6 Mar General Strike

FL0203131089 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Labor unions in Trinidad and Tobago have called for a general strike on Monday [6 March] to protest the government's economic policy. The announcement of the 1-day strike was made Tuesday night.

Officials of the ruling party warned Tuesday against such a strike, pointing out that the violence in Venezuela is an example of what could happen in Trinidad and Tobago.

Victory Claimed on 1-Day Strike

FL0703014289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2346 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 6, CANA—School teachers and students stayed at home, sugar workers did not cut cane and public and private transportation was disrupted but government claimed most public servants went to work.

The one-day strike was called to protest economic austerity measures, including a 10 percent cut in civil servants salaries.

The capital, Port-of-Spain, took on the appearance of a quiet Sunday morning as transportation workers failed to turn up, and most schools remained mainly empty until the few teachers and pupils present were sent home early. The strike appeared most effective in the areas of transportation, education, and in the central Trididad sugar industry. South Trinidad residents reported severe transportation problems and widespread absence of teachers and children from schools.

Representatives of the trade union movement called a Monday evening news conference to report that over 80 percent of the work force heeded its call not to work.

"The 6th of March was a referendum...the NAR (ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction) had better heed the strong statements that came from the people today," Cecil Paul of the Council of Progressive Trade Unions told reporters.

The union leaders, representing 10 of the country's main unions, called for new dialogue with government over its economic adjustment measures.

Government, however, claimed a 75 percent turnout by workers in the state sector.

National Security Minister Selwyn Richardson, at a Monday afternoon news conference, admitted that soldiers had manned the state-run bus corporation, but denied that shops and businesses had either closed early or been depleted. He accused saboteurs of locking school gates to prevent teachers from coming to work.

The local chamber of industry and commerce, which at the weekend carried press advertisements advising people to come to work, claimed business was not affected. Richardson cited figures which ranged from a 50 to a 100 percent turnout by workers in government departments.

Richardson also denied that he had ordered a large police presence on the streets of the capital or that tactical squad officers were out on duty. He said bomb threats and intimidating calls had been made to a number of government offices.

"It would appear that, having failed to bring the country to a halt, some mischief makers have been driven to desperation," Richardson said calling the protest a "total failure."

Richardson said that the government had no problem with people giving vent to legitimate expectations but would not tolerate people trying to railroad others. He described road blocks and bottle throwing incidents in the run-down urban Belmont area of the capital as "small road blocks."

Asked about the long queues in public service desks such as post offices and the main licensing office, Richardson said that people had come out to work but that supervisors had been spread out causing such shortages of desk clerks.

Responding to the minister, the trade unionists later argued that government and the private sector had been the ones using intimidating tactics and warned the 26-month-old administration not to "victimise" any people who had stayed away from work on Monday.

The Public Services Association claimed that between 75 to 100 per cent of the public service had stayed away from work with the National Insurance Board, post offices, and the Health Ministry being hardest hit.

ISCOTT Steel Workers Return to Work

FL0303192189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1435 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 3, CANA—Disgruntled workers at the state Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago, ISCOTT, returned to work on Wednesday night after getting assurances from labour minister, Albert Richards, that he would take up their case.

Member of the Steelworkers Union of Trinidad and Tobago (SWUTT) met with Richards and ISCOTT officials Wednesday afternoon following a 2-day work to rule what caused closure of most of the company's operations, and what the company said was a TT 6.6 (one TT dollar:23.5 U.S. cents) million dollar loss in product sales.

The workers main grouse had been over lack of details on the proposed 1 May takeover of ISCOTT by Indian steel group, ISPAT; job security under the 10-year lease arrangement; and the ISPAT patriate workers already at the central Trinidad plant site. Richards assured the union he would take up the concerns with the new company. Richards, relieved of his energy portfolio in a cabinet reshuffle last week, said he would also regroup. With this assurance, work on the 11PM Wednesday shift got underway, SWUTT officials said. ISCOTT said it also lost some TT 115,000 dollars in charges for delayed loading as a result of the worker's action.

El Salvador

Party Leaders Cited on Election Postponement

PA0603185889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] are accusing one another of being the cause of the standstill in the discussion of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] proposal. Meanwhile, the National Conciliation Party [PCN] is blaming both ARENA and the PDC for the standstill.

[PDC presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena] "I publicly wish to charge and challenge the ARENA candidate to explain why they have delayed the creation of the government commission."

Fidel Chavez Mena said that ARENA's delay in appointing its representatives is hindering the creation of the government commission that will meet with the FMLN representatives. Chavez Mena holds ARENA responsible for the political consequences that could result from this delay since this could mean missing an opportunity for a definitive end to all hostilities and formal incorporation of the rebels into the country's civilian and political life.

[Chavez Mena] "What we see here is a clear contradiction. In Mexico, the ARENA deputies were willing to grant all sorts of concessions. But this is not the case here in El Salvador, where they are displaying an inflexible attitude. We feel that we must do all we can to achieve peace. We are ready for the 19 March elections. We are going to win the elections on 19 March, and we are just as sure that we are going to win the 30 April elections. The important thing is to abide by a commitment. We agreed to meet immediately and to study the request for a meeting between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN. All ARENA has done is delay this meeting."

Despite the request for ARENA to define its position, the PDC candidate predicted that the elections will be held on 19 March. He added that the possibilities for a formal agreement with the FMLN get slimmer each day in light of ARENA's refusal to define its position.

Meanwhile, ARENA leader Roberto Angulo said that the Legislative Assembly should not make decisions on the spur of the moment. Angulo added that all the political groups represented in the Assembly must be consulted prior to making a decision. Angulo said that his party will defend the laws and press for elections to be held on the date established in the Constitution.

[Angulo] "They are convinced that the Constitution is not being violated by postponing the elections until 30 April. I personally do not believe this. We have seen nothing to convince us that the postponement of the elections is within the Constitution. As long as we do not have proof, we will continue to support our position that the postponement is unconstitutional. For the past 8 years, we have fought to ensure that the laws are respected. We will continue to defend the law despite the difficult spot they [the PDC] have put us in. There is no doubt that the search for peace is the wish of all the Salvadoran people; however, we cannot allow this sacred wish to be used to fool our people."

It is clear that as far as ARENA is concerned, the elections will be held on 19 March. Angulo said that ARENA will not withdraw its candidate and criticized the Democratic Convergence for trying to change the election schedule in hopes of gaining an advantage and trying to take advantage of an opportunity they missed when it was available.

Meanwhile, the PCN—the third largest group represented in the Assembly—has said that in light of the behavior of the two major political parties, it is almost a fact that the elections will be held on the scheduled date. PCN leader Hugo Carrillo added:

[Carrillo] "All seems to indicate that the elections will be held on 19 March. The PCN is ready for the 19 March elections, but we are also flexible and willing to participate in an election on another date. However, all seems to indicate that the elections will be held on 19 March. An indispensable element for the postponement of the elections is the withdrawal of all candidates. This has not been done. If the candidates do not withdraw their names from the list, it will be impossible to postpone the elections."

According to Carrillo, the withdrawal of all presidential candidates also presents an operational problem that has not been solved. Carrillo added that it would not be logical to withdraw candidates and refrain from participating in the elections when other parties are not willing to do the same. Carrillo also said that the FMLN's military conduct poses yet another problem. There are no signs that the FMLN is willing to reduce its military activity.

ARENA Deputy Comments

PA0603225089 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Report on interview with Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso, president of the Legislative Assembly, by Winston Grimaldi on 6 March; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Grimaldi] Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso, president of the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly, said this morning that the dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and the rebels cannot be held on 7 and 8 March as suggested by the FMLN. Alvarenga said he had no

knowledge of the rebel proposal. ARENA Deputy Alvarenga said a meeting of the Assembly's Board of Directors to discuss holding an extraordinary session had to be postponed because the Christian Democratic Party delegate was not available. During Wednesday's session, the Legislative Assembly will appoint a commission to hold talks with the rebels.

[Alvarenga] "That is news to me. [Words indistinct] the meeting will not be held tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. We are going to discuss the rebel proposal and appoint a commission during our Wednesday session. I hope an agreement will be reached on Wednesday.

[Grimaldi] "[Question indistinct]

[Alvarenga] "They [not further identified] have no right to say things like that. They have fooled the people before and they are doing it again. Fooling the people is second nature to them. They know perfectly well that the Legislative Assembly cannot (?be summoned from one day to the next). The president of the Legislative Assembly cannot ignore the rights of the 60 deputies. If the Legislative Assembly does not respect democracy it will become a hand-picked assembly [dedocracia]. [Words indistinct] I know the people should no longer be fooled. We hope that we will be able to meet on Wednesday. [Words indistinct] quite the contrary, I wish to inform you that the Board of Directors has contacted the president of the Republic and we have made much progress; but we must wait until Wednesday's meeting is held.

[Grimaldi] "What would happen if the FMLN were to issue an ultimatum?

[Alvarenga] "The truth is that I do not know what I would do. The Salvadoran people have been living with an FMLN ultimatum for many years.

[Grimaldi] "Is the Board of Directors planning to meet to reach an agreement? [Words indistinct] hold an extraordinary session to appoint the commission that will participate in the talks?

[Alvarenga] "It is not easy to call a meeting. We have not been able to reach the PDC delegate. As a result, the Board of Directors could not meet."

[Grimaldi] Regarding the progress made with the Executive Branch, Alvarenga said that President Jose Napoleon Duarte agreed to let the Legislative Assembly appoint the president's representative at the talks with the FMLN.

[Alvarenga] "One of the things I can mention is that during our talks with President Duarte—and he said this during the joint news conference—he said that the Legislative Assembly would be responsible for appointing all the members of the government commission. The assembly will decide how many representatives will attend the talks and who those representatives will be. That has been an important step forward. Giving the legislative branch the right to make these appointments is a very important step forward and is proof of the independence of the branches of government.

[Grimaldi] "[Question indistinct]

[Alvarenga] "When the people's beliefs are at stake, when their needs and their future are at stake, politicians should not take things personally; they should not make unilateral, personal, or partisan decisions. The efforts to achieve peace and to find the path for social, political, and economic improvement are not the prerogatives of a single person or any group of persons. All Salvadorans must take part in those efforts.

"By the same token, I also believe that no one has a right to take away peace [words indistinct]. It has been said that parties are not represented in the Assembly. However, most parties are represented by deputies who were elected by the people. There is an article in the Constitution that says that deputies are not subject to [word indistinct] mandate, as they represent all the people.

"In sum, I will answer your question by saying: Let us unite because of the need for peace instead of making it a personal or partisan issue."

[Grimaldi] Regarding the possibility of holding a dialogue with the FMLN, Alvarenga said that the only valid talks with the people are the 19 March elections.

Zamora Warns Against Rejecting Rebel Proposal

PA0603225389 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Report by Samuel Arias]

[Text] The lack of decision regarding the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] proposal has become a political football that has yet to define the fate of the negotiations. Democratic Convergence [CD] leader Ruben Zamora has said that a rejection of the FMLN proposal would increase the levels of violence:

[Begin recording] I think that if the FMLN proposal were rejected, one would be closing the door on what may be the most specific possibility of peace we have had in the past 9 years. It would increase the levels of violence in the country. However, the CD will continue striving to decrease the levels of violence in the country, to reach a political solution as soon as possible. [end recording]

Zamora noted that Duarte's counterproposal, which the Nationalist Republican Alliance has attacked, came too late from the Executive Branch. Therefore, he felt this may be an indication the president has dismissed the FMLN proposal or has not acted in good faith.

Venceremos Urges People Not To Vote 19 Mar
PA0403032689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Station commentary: "To Vote or Not To Vote on 19 March—That Is the Question"]

[Text] As never before, wide national consensus has been reached on the need to find a political solution to end the conflict. The proposal by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to turn the elections into an instrument to build peace managed to get the attention of the political parties, the church, the labor unions, and even the U.S. Government. They all thought our proposal was feasible.

National majority groups, the oligarchy, the Armed Forces, and the Christian Democratic Party have an irresponsible attitude that shifts from intransigence and inflexibility to using our proposal for election purposes. Recalcitrant sectors opposing peace insist on increasing repression through the murder of peasants in war zones, the capture of leaders and rank-and-file members of labor unions, bombing of the civilian population, massive dismissals of striking workers, aggressions against the university, and a persistent campaign against the people's movement.

Attempting to hold elections on 19 March under such conditions is a mockery to our people and to the international community, which has supported the new prospects for a political solution. During the past few weeks, the FMLN has repeatedly given evidence of flexibility and political willingness to direct its energies currently being used in the social conflict toward a civic consultation process under equal and honest conditions, which could constitute an alternative of peace and social consensus.

We have proposed comparing strength in the political arena. The clean and honest results would demonstrate to the contending parties that it is infeasible to continue the war. However, those who have made war into a business are blocking little by little the solution demanded by the majority. The enemies of peace see in the 19 March elections another strategy in their war plans. They see the 19 March elections as a way to strengthen the repressive military apparatus whose purpose is to contain the people's discontent. The 19 March elections will further increase hunger and misery because they [the elections] represent no true alternative to solve the grave crisis in the country.

The Armed Forces' traditional manipulation of the ballot boxes will perpetuate the tradition of fraud in which the people's votes count for nothing. The 19 March election results will once again be prepared by departmental military chiefs. They, the members of the [1966] military academy class known as La Tandona, are precisely the ones who, as lieutenants, actively participated in the intrigues of [former President Arturo H.] Molina and [former President Carlos H.] Romero. Thus the pawns of fraud and electoral scheming are the ones who hold the highest positions in the Armed Forces today.

The 19 March elections have been planned to prolong the war against the people. The circumstances that led to the war have deepened and worsened after the past five fixed elections. The country can no longer stand new delays in finding a solution to the conflict. Therefore, we urge all our people not to vote, not to vote [commentator repeats himself] on 19 March under such conditions. In instances in which people are forced to go to the voting tables, votes should be voided.

The 19 March elections are designed to maintain the war. Therefore, the slogan is do not vote or void your vote. The unity of sectors struggling for peace should be increased and strengthened through continuing actions to make this national desire a reality.

Chavez Mena Promises Jobs, Agrarian Reform
PA0203184789 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Report by Isabel Ruiz]

[Text] Fidel Chavez Mena, presidential candidate of the Christian Democratic Party, said he will create 160,000 new rural jobs, promote speedy and timely credits, and provide technical aid to the rural population. Chavez Mena stated this as he met today with peasants who are members of the Federation of Land Reform Cooperatives, FESACORA, in Sonsonate Department:

[Begin recording] I also want to say that within our agrarian reform policy, we plan to create new mechanisms in the financial institutions to respond to what you requested in your document; to provide speedy, inexpensive, and timely credits; and to provide strong technical assistance for better economic development of the cooperatives. We are going to create 160,000 new jobs in the rural area. [end recording]

Chavez Mena also said that his government program includes the implementation of the second phase of the agrarian reform, which aims to give land to the peasants to improve the country's agricultural production.

Leaders of the Salvadoran Communal Union said their organization will give full support to the democratic center [centro democratico] so as to contribute to the consolidation of the agrarian reform process.

FMLN Commander Addresses Geneva Meeting
PA0203184489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Commander Nidia Diaz of the guerrillas' political-diplomatic commission spoke in Geneva today about the FMLN proposal and human rights violations in El Salvador. She reported this to this newscast over the telephone from Geneva, Switzerland tonight.

The FMLN delegation presented the FMLN proposal to representatives of 42 countries and many international organizations attending an international forum in Geneva. Nidia Diaz explained to the participating governments and organizations that the Salvadoran guerrillas are willing to negotiate the end of the armed struggle, their incorporation into political life, and the recognition of a single army. Commander Nidia Diaz said the FMLN proposal for a 5-month delay in the elections is the reasonable period it needs to organize its rank and file regarding the presidential elections and to guarantee compliance with the commitments that might be agreed upon during the dialogue meeting with the government and the Armed Forces.

FMLN Reports Recent Military Activities

19-21 Feb Battle Reports

PA2602023889

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 23 February carries 25 minutes of battle reports on clashes between FMLN forces and the Salvadoran Army.

The report begins by saying that the FMLN "carried out a successful operation in the country's four eastern departments." The rebels reportedly attacked a Ponce Battalion company in Ciudad Barrios, San Miguel Department from three directions at 1115 on 21 February 1989. "The enemy positions were taken in the first 15 minutes of fighting. The enemy sustained 10 casualties, including three dead and seven wounded." In addition, the rebels occupied San Luis de la Reina, where propaganda was distributed. "Clandestine militiamen harassed enemy positions in Chapeltique and Lolotique in San Miguel and Villa El Triunfo in Usulutan. Two electricity poles were damaged," Venceremos reports.

The report continues: "At 1900 on 21 February, the FMLN attacked a Lenca Battalion unit in Cacaopera, Morazan Department, where two of the enemy were killed and several wounded. Two complete M-16 rifles, seven knapsacks, a PRC-77 radio, and more than 3,000 rounds of M-16 ammunition were seized." The FMLN reportedly attacked government troops in El Aguacate, near Corinto in the same department, Jocoro, and Guatajiagua. The report states: "Militiamen and guerrillas raided Jucuapa, where electricity poles, a telephone junction box, and a transformer were damaged."

The station also reported that at 1130 on 21 February, "FMLN militiamen and guerrillas attacked a Cuscatlan Battalion unit, which fled in disarray after a few minutes of fighting." In addition, in Berlin "militias occupied the SEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] geothermal plant under construction in Zapotillo, 4 km north of Berlin. Compressors and turbines and a Caterpillar tractor were destroyed." The rebels "seized dynamite, caps, and safety fuses."

At 0030 on 22 February, "militiamen attacked policemen and 6th Brigade members guarding the El Martillo cotton cooperative, a short distance west from Usulutan on the costal highway. The enemy sustained three casualties." The station reports: "A helicopter sent to pick up the Army wounded was attacked and damaged by the FMLN and was forced to make an emergency landing in Anamoros, La Union Department. The clash lasted until 1700 on 22 February."

In addition, the clandestine radio station reports on an operation in northern Santa Ana Department. "1. At 2330 on 21 February, guerrillas attacked a civilian defense garrison in Metapan with artillery and rifle fire. The enemy sustained five casualties. A gasoline station and the barracks were destroyed and several electricity poles were damaged, leaving several areas in darkness.

"2. On the same day, FMLN units occupied and distributed propaganda at Santa Anita Canton, Metapan Jurisdiction.

"3. At 2300 on the same day, rebel detachments set up two barricades and distributed propaganda on the road between Metapan and Cicala. In addition, other detachments set up two barricades at Los Morales hamlet." The report adds that other rebel detachments placed another barricade at La Ceiba Canton on the road between Metapan and Santa Rosa Guachipilin.

The same report adds that FMLN units attacked Civil Defense positions at Carrizalillo Canton, inflicting three casualties. Another report states that FMLN forces attacked the Civil Defense Headquarters in San Luis La Planta, Santa Ana Jurisdiction at 2330 on 22 February.

Venceremos then claims that FMLN units attacked Military Detachment No 1 positions in San Miguel Mercedes, Chalatenango Department at 2030 on 21 February. The report adds that "a guerrilla unit attacked enemy positions with rifle fire and artillery near El Tamarindo." "In this attack," the report adds, "we inflicted a total of 12 casualties, including that of a sublieutenant identified as Abel Palma." The report adds that "during this action, we seized 1 M-16 rifle, 1 PRC-77 military communication radio, 6,000 5.56-caliber cartridges, 600 7.62-caliber cartridges, 5 grenades for M-79 grenade launchers, 24 backpacks, 1 Claymore mine, 3 complete sets of military equipment, uniforms, and other war materiel."

The last report says that FMLN units attacked a National Guard position in Aguilares Municipality with RPG's, hand grenades, and rifle fire at 2300 on 19 February, inflicting 6 casualties, including dead and wounded.

23 Feb Clashes Reported

PA2702165989

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 24 February broadcasts 9 minutes of reports on FMLN military actions throughout El Salvador.

The first report is "a summary of FMLN actions throughout the nation during the last few hours." The FMLN claims to have carried out the following actions: an attack on the 1st Infantry Brigade at the San Carlos garrison in San Salvador; the "annihilation" of a commando unit in Tortolico, Morazan Department; an attack on Army positions in Zacatecoluca; rebel attacks on the outskirts of Tejutepeque; an attack on paramilitary forces in San Jose Oratorio, Cabanas Department; harassment operations against troops guarding the Cerron Grande hydroelectric plant; guerrilla actions in Apopa and Quezaltepeque; "revolutionary" actions in Tenancingo and Jutiapa; attacks in neighborhoods and residential districts in San Miguel; seizure of the cities of Metapan and San Luis de la Reina; harassment of enemy positions in Chapeltique, Lolotique, and Villa El Triunfo; a raid on the outskirts of Sensuntepeque; an attack on El Martillo cooperative; the "routing" of enemy troops from Calavera, Morazan Department; an attack on the Beltran Luna Battalion in San Francisco Goteras; an attack on Army positions in Jocoro; the cutting of two power lines during an operation involving several Salvadoran departments by dozens of militia and guerrilla units and "insurrectional detachments"; an attack on Military Detachment No 1 in Potonico, Chalatenango; an attack on the Concachagua Battalion between Anamoros and Lislique; a guerrilla raid on San Pedro Masahuat; and "many operations to sabotage electric lines and to attack the repressive forces in the streets of San Salvador." Venceremos reports that there were 149 "confirmed casualties" in these operations.

In a "last-minute" report, the station says that during the attack on the Conchagua Battalion in Lislique, an Army helicopter that had "come to the rescue of the demoralized enemy troops" was "visibly damaged" by antiaircraft fire from FMLN forces. Venceremos says the fighting in Lislique lasted approximately 5 hours and that the FMLN forces seized war materiel. "The helicopter had to leave the area after indiscriminately strafing the village of Hoja Blanca, Agua Fria Canton, Nueva Esparta Jurisdiction," the station adds.

237 Army Casualties 'This Week'

PA0203181489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] During this week of victories, the FMLN inflicted 237 casualties on the puppet Armed Forces, including Major (Donald Heberto Campos Quijada), chief of operations of the (?CEMFA), who was killed in an FMLN attack on Army troops in Zacatecoluca. The casualties also include three Armed Forces officers, the chief of a commando unit of the GM-3, an Air Force pilot, a sublieutenant of Military Detachment No 1, two subsergeants, and three corporals.

26-27 Feb Actions Noted

PA0203161289

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 28 February broadcasts approximately 25 minutes of reports on recent FMLN guerrilla actions.

The station first reports that FMLN urban commando units, in "a successful operation," killed seven soldiers from the Armed Forces Engineers' Training Center in the early morning of 27 February in Rosario de Mora, southern San Salvador Department. According to the report, the rebels began their attack against the troops at 0300, using LM-72 rocket launchers and rifle fire.

In addition, the station reports that FMLN units ambushed a 10-vehicle military convoy traveling westward on the Pan-American Highway at Rio Frio, Apastepeque, San Vicente Department, at 1145 on 26 February. According to the station, the rebels placed "two powerful Manuel Jose Arce mines" in the path of the convoy, "which exploded when the fourth vehicle passed by." The station claims the ambush resulted in 18 Army casualties, who were evacuated by an Army helicopter that appeared at the site 30 minutes after the ambush. Venceremos adds that, according to a report from the Anastacio Aquino Paracentral Front, the FMLN carried out a 30-minute clash with Victoria Battalion troops in El Zapote at 1000 on 27 February. The station claims that the reinforcements from the 5 November Dam to Villa Victoria sustained two casualties.

The Anastacio Aquino Paracentral Front report adds that at 0600 on 27 February, guerrilla units raided Villa Victoria, taking control of the town for 2 hours. A Civilian Defense patrol in Villa Victoria fled in disarray "because of our attack. Our units killed 1 member of the Civilian Defense patrol and seized 1 G-3 rifle, 12 cartridge clips, 1 complete set of military gear, 3 M-18 mines, 1 military knapsack, 2 microtelephones, 1 radio, and 4 batteries for a PRC-77 military communication radio."

Helicopter Downed in Chalatenango

PA0703014989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0008 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Attention. Radio Venceremos has received a report from El Refugio in Chalatenango Department. The report indicates that FMLN units attacked the Cayahuanca Battalion's command post with [words indistinct] and rifle fire. The 200-man batallion is stationed on El Refugio's main northern highway and is part of the 4th Infantry Brigade.

We attacked all the outlying positions, including eight bunkers, one underground dormitory, and two trenches that link the command post with its outlying defense positions. Our men took the position at the gas station and encountered no resistance from the enemy. Our men took the first two positions located on the main highway near Cerro Grande just 10 minutes after combat started. The soldiers fled to the command post. However, the command post's soldiers and officers fled toward La Palma just 15 minutes after combat started. Our people's

artillery hit the command post five times. Our attack continued in full force until 0400 and, after fulfilling their mission, our men started to withdraw.

The troops we attacked in the early morning of 6 March received air support from several [word indistinct] A-37, AC-47 planes, several helicopters, as well as a push-pull aircraft. This air support was neutralized. A Hughes-500 helicopter and a gunship also arrived at the combat area. Our units opened fire and hit the Hughes-500 helicopter at 0600. It crashed between the Amayo detour and La Reina and its entire crew was killed. The other gunship was also damaged and had to make an emergency landing in El Paraiso. Later, another UH-1H helicopter was ambushed in Los Aposentos on the main northern highway and was damaged by our antiaircraft fire. This helicopter had to make an emergency landing at the Las Crucitas detour, south of Tejutla.

Our men noted that they brought down one Hughes-500 helicopter and damaged two other helicopters. They also reported they inflicted 42 casualties, including 2 Air Force pilots, during the attack on the Cayahuanca Battalion's command post in El Refugio.

Nicaragua

Borge on Pardon, Elections, Army Reductions

PA0303043789 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Feb 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Julio Cesar Armas]

[Text] Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez met with foreign correspondents for breakfast at the International Press Club.

The minister was in a very cheerful mood. He shook hands with all the journalists and answered all the questions they asked, although he said: "This looks like a news conference, not a breakfast."

The news conference was based on four questions to Commander Borge. The first question was: Why is President Ortega now talking about granting a pardon when the Esquipulas agreements, which he signed, said an amnesty would be granted? The second question was about the possible reduction of the Army, as it is a large economic burden and, according to government, the contras are less of a threat. The third question was on the possible abstention of the opposition in the upcoming elections if reforms are not made to the Election Law, the Media Law, and the Constitution. If the opposition abstains from the elections, as it did in 1984, it would take away international and domestic credibility from the upcoming elections. The fourth question was on President Ortega's possible reelection.

The following were the answers given by Borge, the most prominent FSLN Directorate member after President Ortega:

"Amnesty and pardon are legal terms that do not contradict each other in content but in form. Amnesty means to forget. Pardon means to forgive. We are forgiving but not forgetting. It is totally unimportant if one term was used at one meeting and another term in another meeting. What is important is that the practical interpretation of amnesty or pardon—in this case pardon—is that the prisoner will be released and that all charges will be dropped. Those who want the prisoners to be released will not argue about which of the two legal terms we use. We thought about the way we would release the former national guardsmen, and, for political reasons, we have decided to release them using the term pardon."

Commander Borge then referred to the opposition's demands, saying:

"The opposition's request for constitutional reforms must have a political response, not a legal one. The legal aspect is not that important. There are legal obstacles to the proposal, but these are surmountable. It is a political problem, not a legal one."

Borge added: "The majority of the Nicaraguan people voted for this Constitution, and we believe any reform to the Constitution would have to be made after the elections. Elections for new legislators must be carried out before a constitutional reform is implemented. Also, the legislators who now want to reform the Constitution could have proposed reforms in the past. They chose not to exercise this right, which is granted in the Constitution itself. The Nicaraguan people voted for this Constitution; we cannot start to reform it because petty groups or organizations—claiming that they want independence, that there was fraud during the referendum, or other arguments that do not even convince those who are making them—want to reform it."

The interior minister noted: "Many political parties continue to demand constitutional reforms, but this is not a valid or legitimate argument for not running in the elections. Many political parties will run in the elections. We do not doubt this. Perhaps they will all run. This is how it should be and what all Nicaraguans want: that we all participate in decisionmaking."

Borge added: "Perhaps some parties might participate in the elections; some important ones might, and that would be enough. The hopes of U.S. spokesmen or of the world's most reactionary groups, expressed through their media or leaders, will not come true, because reality is consistent; reality reflects historical traditions. That is the truth. Failing to participate in the elections would completely unmask those groups."

"No one in the world would consider such a decision legitimate. We believe there is enough common sense left to ensure that several parties, if not all, will participate in the elections," he said.

Borge said that "naturally, pressure to amend the Constitution and other secondary requests and demands will continue, but these are not sufficiently valid to justify nonparticipation in the elections. Suppose that only two or three political parties participate or, at the last minute, only one party participates. And suppose that the elections take place, and a sizable majority of the Nicaraguan people cast votes. Suppose that some vote for the FSLN and others for the other parties. This would show that there is no absenteeism, because the absenteeism of some leaders does not mean absenteeism of the people in the elections."

The minister said that "as for the Election Law and Media Law, our goal is to listen to the views of the political parites and take them into account in making amendments to the Election and Media Laws. These amendments must be in line with the new situation the country is experiencing."

Minister Borge replied to a question on reducing the size of the Army by saying that we must take two factors into account: first, the rationalization of our resources in keeping with the new situation; and second, we must take into account that even if the counterrevolution has been defeated, there is still the threat of a foreign military intervention in Nicaragua.

Once this threat has disappeared and we are fully aware of that, Borge added, we would then decide what to do under such circumstances.

As for authorization for a private television station, Commander Borge replied: "That should be the result of discussions with the political parties."

What about Daniel Ortega's reelection?

Borge said: "Each party decides on presidential candidates at the appropriate time. We have not yet made that decision. I say this so that I will not continue to be asked about that."

Commander Tomas Borge replied to other questions. His answers are summarized as follows:

As for prisoner Reynaldo Aguado, Borge said Aguado is writing poems and wishes to become another [Cuban writer in exile] Armando Valladares. Borge said: "That little traitor sold himself out to a foreign power for money instead of ideals; we will have no pardon for him."

Mario Rosales of ACAN-EFE asked a question in which he described as dramatic the government's decision to release former national guardsmen; Rosales said the released prisoners could kill someone or organize death squads.

The commander replied: "There will never be death squads here—at least not from our side. Once the war is over, it is possible that we might have to fight armed groups involved in some form of banditry. We would be irresponsible criminals if we were to organize death squads to retaliate or take revenge against the guardsmen who will be released." Borge did not rule out the possibility of personal vendettas, however. "We are asking our people to avoid personal vendettas," he added.

Opposition Leaders Return From Abroad

PA0603191189 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with Nicaraguan Conservative Party leader Alberto Saborio by unidentified reporter in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] We have Nicaraguan Conservative Party leader Dr Alberto Saborio on the line. Saborio and a group of Nicaraguan opposition leaders have just returned from a trip to Costa Rica and Venezuela.

Dr Saborio, we would like to hear about your trip to Costa Rica and Venezuela and your meetings with Presidents Oscar Arias and Carlos Andres Perez. We heard about the outbreak of violence in Venezuela and were worried that this incident would force you to postpone your visit.

[Saborio] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias invited us to meet with him. The meeting was held on 28 February. It began at 1830 and lasted approximately 3 hours. The Costa Rican president and the Nicaraguan opposition leaders discussed a wide range of issues. We told President Arias that we were concerned over what we believe are faults and deficiencies in the San Salvador declaration. Arias tried to ease our mind and explained that the international situation has changed; that the Sandinist National Liberation Front no longer has the total support of the USSR; that the economic situation is such that the Sandinist government can no longer continue to go back on its word; and that economic aid to the Sandinist regime is being conditioned to its abiding by the Esquipulas agreement and the San Salvador declaration. After our meeting with President Arias, we traveled to Venezuela. [passage omitted]

Since our visit to Caracas was the result of an official invitation, we met with the president of the National Congress and visited the Senate. Our meeting with President Perez had been scheduled for Saturday morning; however, in light of the problems, the meeting was postponed until 1700. The meeting actually began at at 1800 and lasted until 2100. After the meeting we were taken directly to the hotel.

During the meeting President Perez talked to us about the problems in Venezuela and also analyzed the international situation. Perez talked about [words indistinct]. Perez promised total support for the Nicaraguan people. He said the Venezuelan Government and people will always support the struggle for democracy in Nicaragua.

Wheelock on Law Ending Land Expropriation
PA0603170989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1213 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Commander Jaime Wheelock, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, has stated that Nicaragua has reached historic goals during its 10 years of revolution, adding that these goals are a source of pride for the Nicaraguan people and revolution. Wheelock made these statements during a meeting with the 25th Anniversary Coffee-Picking Brigade, which participated in the 7th Coffee Battle [coffee-picking campaign].

Wheelock said that no foreign power is capable of changing the course of the revolution, which in 10 years has managed to organize its people and, consequently, its defense. Wheelock added that the nation's current economic crisis is serious and difficult, but the peasants—who used to live in poverty—today harvest crops from their very own parcels of land. Wheelock stated: Ten years after the revolution, we feel victorious. Our great achievement, he added, is that we have acted quickly and correctly.

Wheelock asked the 25th Anniversary Brigade workers to use their experiences to strengthen coffee production in the 3d region. He asked the brigade workers who had been laid off their jobs to form a contingent to increase the region's coffee production. Wheelock said that one positive aspect of the recent job layoffs is that those who lost their jobs can be used to improve production, especially the production of agricultural export products. Wheelock added that this contingent could become permanent in [words indistinct] in Managua by applying the experience it has gained on the northern coffee plantations to increase production in this region.

Wheelock stated that a new agrarian reform law will be announced as part of Nicaragua's peace process, which will guarantee private property. Wheelock said that the producers' legitimate concerns are being studied to find fair solutions:

[Wheelock] "We must all work toward recovery. We have heard your [the producers'] points of view, and because we consider them fair and adequate, we will try to address your concerns. Among the solutions we are proposing is a new agrarian reform law. With this law, we will go from a stage of expropriation to a stage of consolidation of our achievements. We will be better able to combine our efforts toward recovering land from war zones, recovering production units, and in using the lowlands of our country for agricultural production, thus eliminating the need to expropriate lands."

Wheelock said the peace process will not merely end with a signature, because it aims to achieve a rapprochement. He added that meetings with private and state producers have continued to take place periodically.

[Wheelock] "We have been meeting with them constantly. The peace process will not end with a mere signature. To achieve peace, we need to get together and decide on a common goal. Because we are in a [words indistinct] policy, we must agree at all times. The government is committed to making an effort and is therefore in constant contact with producers, workers, and officials. We are still discussing several points, but the producers have already made a series of requests to the National Planning Council, which we are looking into."

Wheelock said that cotton production will be maintained by providing incentives for workers to ensure that enough cotton is produced in 1989 both for local consumption and to meet international demand. He announced that cotton producers will receive special benefits in terms of resale and unsettled accounts.

Luis Carrion Interviewed on Economy, Inflation
PA2702160789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Feb 89 p 3

[Interview with Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, minister of economy, industry, and commerce, by an unidentified BARRICADA reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] Many people blame rising inflation on the monetary devaluations that began in July.

[Carrion] That is not true. We had a devaluation in July, precisely because domestic prices in March, April, and May had increased rapidly while the exchange rate lagged. We were trying to correct a distortion that was taking place when we ordered a 10,000-percent devaluation in February.

During those months (March to June), domestic prices were rising rapidly while the exchange rate remained fixed. At the same time, prices were being affected by such factors as the printing of money and spending in excess of the available supply. Independent of what the dollar might be worth, if there are excess cordobas and a scarcity of goods, prices rise. If every month the government has to finance the fiscal deficit, grant producers subsidized loans, and pay parity prices for export products priced over the official exchange rate, then there will be a steady cash flow feeding the inflationary spiral.

What happens is that the amount of money in circulation increases but not the quantity of goods, which causes prices to rise regardless of what the dollar is doing on the exchange market. Exchange rate movements affect prices; however, domestic prices rise more quickly than the prices of imported goods. The exchange rate moves in concert with domestic prices and not the other way around.

We cannot control exchange rate increases if we do not control domestic prices. This becomes possible only by restricting the issuance of paper money.

[Reporter] Some economists claim that the government has emphasized controlling demand but lacks a clear policy to increase supply. This would tend to be recessionary. What would be the social and political costs of such a policy?

[Carrion] The government spent 8 and ½ years paying attention only to supply. All our speeches, all our economic actions, were aimed at increasing national production.

We guaranteed exporters parity prices so they would never lose. We guaranteed imported raw materials at artificially low prices to assist producers. We provided financing to practically all those who requested it at interest rates below the real cost of money. All these measures were aimed at increasing supply.

The country's real supply, however, has been subject not only to government policies but to the war, destruction, economic blockade, and political destabilization. This supply was reduced year after year.

Beginning in 1987, inflation reached very high levels—1,300 percent—and was headed toward hyperinflation, which further weakened production, caused social disorder, and destabilized various sectors of the economy.

The situation continued to deteriorate, and inflation reached 31,000 percent last year, becoming the main problem. If we do not stop inflation, the production downtrend will continue no matter what other measures we take to improve the economy.

Other steps can be taken when inflation rates are in the 500 and 600 percent a year range, but when it reaches 126 percent a month, as occurred in December, there is no other way except to halt domestic inflation.

To stop printing money has a recessionary effect, but we have not found any other formula to fight inflation.

The social costs are basically unemployment and smaller businesses going bankrupt. Political costs will ultimately depend on the results we achieve, and if we are successful, I believe the overall political effect will be beneficial.

[Reporter] These measures affect workers and social programs, such as health and education. How do you explain this situation in the case of a self-styled people's revolution?

[Carrion] The revolution's social programs began deteriorating long before that. What we accomplished during the first years began to be phased out. In many instances, this happened as the result of shortages of drugs, tools, and equipment. The deterioration was taking place and it was reasonable to conclude that this deterioration would continue. The problem is that we lack the needed resources to implement these programs. Because of our scant domestic resources, curbing inflation simply allows us to stabilize the country's economic recovery through a gradual and difficult process.

[Reporter] Are there any chances of obtaining foreign resources? How much will Nicaragua need to reactivate its economy?

[Carrion] We will be in a better position to obtain more financing but currently we cannot. It would be an illusion to consider foreign financing that is not now available.

Foreign financing will help lessen the recessive impact of the new economic measures. President (Daniel Ortega) mentioned the amount of $250 million, which could have a favorable affect.

[Reporter] The government wants to achieve the necessary stability to begin to resolve the economic problems. What sectors can participate in the concerted effort proposed by the government?

[Carrion] The conversations should include all sectors, not only the private, large, or small segments of the economy. We are convinced that all sectors must participate in curbing inflation.

The concerted effort must not exclude anybody. If there are those who exclude themselves for political or other reasons, that is their problem. We believe this must be an all-encompassing effort, grouping everyone and considering the interests of all.

[Reporter] The business sector claims there is a lack of guarantees, both because of the confiscations as well as the constant changes in the rules of economic play. Does the government accept the validity of that charge? Is the government willing to negotiate the stability demanded by the businessmen? How far is it willing to go?

[Carrion] We can understand this. One of the points of the revolution's program was the redistribution of rural property and land redistribution. We touched private property, which stopped being sacred.

We believe that the fundamental action is being carried out with these considerations in mind. We must now strive to consolidate and correctly implement the mixed economy. We are now in a position to guarantee property and offer alternatives we could not offer in the past.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the revolution has already completed a stage of its new economic plan?

[Carrion] This is subject to certain external factors. We have been able to apply many of these policies because there has been a reduction in the war and there are better prospects for attaining peace. If the war escalates, controlling hyperinflation will not be the main objective.

Armed defense will become the main objective. Under these circumstances, everything would have to be subordinated to the main objective, as has been the case over all these years.

In the initial stage, the main objective was the revolution's armed defense. In this second stage, consolidating the mixed economy and the revolution's political organizations became the objective. Up to now, this project has not had a chance to be tested or to consolidate itself because it is being attacked from abroad.

With our new perspective, more than speaking of the requested guarantees, I am going to speak about what will not be changed, such as the great social and political transformations that the revolution achieved. That is unquestionable.

The agrarian reform is at the top of this list—the land granted to the peasants. In second place is the formation of an area belonging to the people [area propiedad del pueblo], which is the most advanced form of social production in the country at this moment. In third place are the people's political conquests, such as freedom of assembly and freedom of speech; the existence of an Army created and educated to defend national sovereignty and the working people, never to turn against them. These are some of the conquests.

Panama

Noriega Blames IMF for Venezuela Violence

PA0303153189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Panama City (DPA)—Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega yesterday said the violence unleashed this week in Venezuela was a result of obstacles set up by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) against President Carlos Andres Perez.

In a brief interview with the DPA press agency of Germany and Colombia's Radio Caracol, the ranking military man said "it is a shame that my friend Carlos Andres Perez has had this happen so soon after taking office."

Noriega, who in his latest speeches has criticized international credit organizations, said the violence "unleashed in Venezuela is the result of the IMF policy that tripped up Carlos Andres Perez."

The FDP commander confirmed that he will meet today with the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission delegation that has been visiting Panama since Monday.

"We will submit ourselves to that test," Noriega said, adding, "but we ask them to observe the human rights situation in other countries and then compare it to the situation in Panama."

Solis Palma on Continuation of U.S. Sanctions

PA0703013289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2333 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Unattributed report on comments by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, in Panama City on 6 March]

[Text] Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, today expressed doubt that the U.S. Government will ease the sanctions imposed on Panama over the past 1 and ½ years. He described the sanctions as counterproductive:

[Begin recording] [Solis, in progress] ...sectors of the country begin to realize that having sanctions imposed on Panama has been counterproductive and has affected all social strata, particularly the poor, and even the country's productive and business sectors. Therefore, we must all become aware of this, so the country can begin a more solid and firm resurgence, which is indispensable for the Panamanian nation's welfare. [end recording]

On the other hand, Solis Palma expressed his doubts the U.S. Government will ease its economic and political sanctions against Panama:

[Begin recording] [Solis] I have always had some doubt as to whether these measures or requests will be heeded or whether there has already been coordination to make such a request. [sentence as heard] I have always had doubts about this. I have said so on several occasions, because I believe the conflict between Panama and the United States has a certain foundation. Until the U.S. Government thoroughly understands that we have the right to demand respect for our sovereignty and our status as a nation and the right to sit down at a table, as do countries that are friendly but at the same time sovereign, there will be no solution to the problems. Whenever there is an attempt to impose certain criteria or interests on the country, we will maintain a very firm, resolute determination not to yield, while the United States is probably determined to maintain its interests and subdue us to achieve its objectives. In such circumstances, it would be very difficult to reach an understanding; and since this has been the situation so far, it is not easy to predict what will happen in this regard.

[Reporter] Will your government agree to the recommendations made by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission during its visit to Panama?

[Solis] We are evaluating their requests. Personally, they only asked me about two basic issues involving two persons under arrest. We are considering the files of those two citizens involved to see the merits of the request for release.

Concerning an international organization judging the Hugo Spadafora case, we told them emphatically that we could not agree to this because it would be tantamount to

yielding one of the country's sovereign rights. We have never asked for the Kennedy case or any other crime committed in the United States to be reviewed by an international organization, because we believe is the prerogative of that government and state. We have the same right to judge crimes committed in this country through our own authorities—the Supreme Court of Justice, the Attorney General's Office, and all our police and judicial organizations—and we are not going to yield in this, because it would be equivalent to giving up our sovereignty and dignity, which we are not willing to do.

[Reporter] Will the government yield to the opposition's request for optimum conditions for an election process?

[Solis] I believe all of us, including the government, are demanding optimum conditions in this election process. We are facing an act of aggression, a freezing of funds that does not allow us to meet the needs of the masses and which influences the elections. Therefore, I believe we are the ones with the most right to demand we be given optimum conditions to operate. [end recording]

Opposition March Labeled 'Mass Hysteria'
PA0503201489 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 5 Mar 89 p 16-A

["Dotting the I's" column by Jorge Montalvan]

[Text] They came from the areas from which they had to come: El Cangrejo and Obarrio [middle- and upper-income areas of Panama City], walking in front and along side, each one considering himself the leader; thousands of members of the oligarchy [rabiblancos], resounding and happy in their mass hysteria. What a pleasure to watch the dreamers and recall what Vallejos once said: "There is many a slip between the cup and the lip." It also grieved me to watch them, enveloped in their permanent halo of self-justification and hypocritical moral righteousness, showing off, all dressed up in white and green [reference to the colors of the opposition (white) and the Christian Democratic Party (green)] and longing for the days when the police, who took orders from the oligarchy, would plead to them for a $25 raise in their wages.

They marched through Calidonia [low-income section of Panama City] because they had to, proud of their audacity and pleased with the fact that they were not being punished. So many blacks together in one place incapable of standing up to them—so much poverty exposed to their indifference and ambitions.

They ended their march in the logical place, a safe and adequate spot: the old Exposicion [former upper-income section of downtown Panama City], the stepping stone for the rising petite bourgeoisie whose eyes focused on the Bella Vista [middle- and upper-income section of Panama City] of the past.

Let me tell you, I was not impressed. At this point, I think the more serene and objective among that excited horde must be madly searching for new strategies and better ways to show their strength.

People with little gray matter—just think about the slogans they chanted in such a frenzy: empty, abstract, without feelings for the real needs of the common man. Think about the waste of such an effort: Thousands of tired members of the opposition returned to their homes with their adrenalin still pumping hard in every cell of their bodies and without a new and efficient political argument to handle the daily confrontations that still lay ahead.

It was a convincing and emotional event, but without real effect on the elections—unless you and I can be dazzled by a phantom; unless we fall for the deadly foreign policy of those who, in politics, trust their first impressions.

For 1 hour and 40 minutes I saw them pass before me at the 5 May Square. Even stretching it a bit, there might have been a crowd of approximately 60,000, slightly less than the total number of their supporters in the metropolitan area. It was a lot of people, but not enough to make us run from a challenge or to doubt a victory that we predicted a long time ago and that they are trying to thwart with their worn out claims of fraud.

U.S. Role in Media Demonstration Draws Comment
PA0203173989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Reporters get no satisfaction from commenting on things that are no longer news because such events have become routine. In addition, such comments do not appeal to the reading public. This happened to me after reading an AFP report that about 300 people, including U.S. Embassy officials, participated in a protest demonstration on the 1st anniversary of the closing of several media. But the report was specific. It said Terrence Kneebone, a U.S. diplomat whom the Panamanian Foreign Ministry has accused of meddling in Panama's domestic affairs, was present at the protest with U.S. Embassy information office officials.

To the Panamanian people who really want to be sovereign and do not want to be a colony of the empire, the yankee embassy officials' intervention in our country's domestic affairs has ceased to be news. The determination to destabilize the constitutional government headed by Manuel Solis Palma and replace it with a docile government that will blindly and faithful obey U.S. Government instructions has led these officials to participate insolently in this kind of public activity. The others—who speak in Spanish but think in English; those who have never learned to say: Yankee, go home; those who are treated as lesser citizens by their Yankee masters even in their own homeland—

cheer and invite the invaders to such activities. We refer to those who hope to be pushed up to political power, because they know they will never be able to achieve this power through elections.

To these people, the U.S. intervention in Panama is news indeed. They are the ones who cry for an armed invasion to achieve their nefarious purposes. This time, the illegal participation of U.S. officials in Panama's domestic affairs has been pointed out by a news agency, not by the Panamanian Government. Let us see now if the U.S. Embassy's official information office releases a communique saying Panamanian authorities have been relaying false reports to the public, because the yankee officials whom AFP saw at the demonstration were only observers, were following the flight of birds with binoculars, or simply strolled by casually. Anyway, they were at the right place at the exact time.

Our attention has been drawn to another fact. According to the AFP dispatch, one of the closed media reporters has estimated that the closed newspaper owners lost more than $3 million in a year of inactivity. The reporter, however, carefully avoided saying that these newspapers are closed because they are being investigated after being accused of attacking the state's internal security and the country's economy. These corporations, with incredible irresponsibility and lack of patriotism, published in their newspapers and aired on their radio stations' newscasts false reports concerning the state nature and encouraged U.S. Government intervention in Panama, thus paving the way for the most brutal economic, psychological, and even military aggression the U.S. empire has ever staged against a particular country.

We ask this reporter: Do you know how many millions the Panamanian Government has failed to receive as the result of this illegal and criminal U.S. aggression? Do you know that this aggression, which has decreased basic services the state must offer to all Panamanians, constitutes a direct attack on the people's human rights?

Finally, the AFP dispatch includes remarks by a self-styled vice president of the National Reporters' College, which does not exist because it is not legally registered. In these remarks, this lady, far from taking a nationalist and unionist position as she should have, demanded that foreign newspapers in friendly countries pressure the Panamanian Government into reopening the closed media.

Without further comment, this is all we want to ask: What else could be expected from a lady who acted as spokesperson for a former president who has passed into history with the sad title of World Bank collector? What can we expect from a lady who has now become the mouthpiece of those who demand a foreign intervention in Panama?

U.S. 'Provocations' Reported to Rights Group

PA0503155289 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 3 Mar 89 p 19

[Letter dated 2 March from Dignity Battalions' Patriotic Coordinating Command to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission]

[Text] The Panamanian people demanded to be armed and trained by the government to defend the homeland when it was evident that the escalation of local sedition came in response to the U.S. Government's plan for a brutal economic, political, and psychological aggression against our people and government and, particularly, when the increased U.S. military presence in Panama—which violates the Torrijos-Carter treaties—and the constant, insolent, and direct intervention by the U.S. ambassador and other U.S. Government officials in our country gave us serious warning of an imminent armed invasion against our country. The response was positive because this process is based on the people's participation and gives consideration to the people's interests. Thousands of patriots were voluntarily organized into dignity battalions, selected their own coordinators, and have been receiving intensive military training with Panama Defense Forces logistical support. At present, we have more than 10,000 volunteers who, regardless of ideology or party, comprise this civilian armed front to defend the nation from aggression and to protect sovereignty and the human rights of our people.

The Panamanian people are very peaceful but have demonstrated throughout history their willingness to struggle heroically and with dignity, which has been acknowledged all over the world. Imperialists learned this the hard way. This is why they use the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] as agents and pawns in their strategy of aggression and unsuccessfully try to mask their insolent actions against fundamental international legal principles under the pretext that "democracy" and "human rights" are being violated in our country.

Human rights should be measured by the amount of social and economic rights the people have. With its revolutionary process, Panama stands out precisely as a country that respects and promotes human rights, which have systematically been violated by the traitorous oligarchs who are trying to gain political power again to return our country to the U.S. hegemonic and colonialist experiment that it once was. Even worse, the oligarchs are trying to return the country to the neofascism that covers several Third World countries in blood because of U.S. imperialism's wicked and shameless intervention.

What kind of "democracy" and "human rights" are they talking about?

Do they mean racial, social, and economic discrimination against the U.S. people; the systematic murders that imperialism perpetrates or provokes in or outside the United States; the atrocities that the Social Christian

Party perpetrates in El Salvador; the fact that the great majority of the U.S. people cannot truly elect and be elected to public posts (an overwhelming majority of U.S. voters abstain and only multimillionaire candidates stand a chance); the extortion and blackmail by international monopolies and the foreign debt that strangles Third World nations and sinks them into misery, curtailing their rights to health, education, jobs, and food; the hundreds of Venezuelans who have been murdered for opposing the IMF plans? [sentence as published]

The cost of the economic aggression against our country through December 1988 has been estimated at $2.667 billion, but this figure must be doubled to include factors that cannot be easily measured. We hereby report to the world that the U.S. Government's policy of aggression, which includes measures affecting Panama Canal employees, diminishes the canal's normal and efficient operation and that therefore users of the canal should take some action against this evil and dangerous U.S. policy and demand that the Torrijos-Carter treaties be complied with and that the fundamental principles of international law be obeyed.

In this regard, Dennis McAuliffe, the administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, displayed indescribable cynicism when he recently uttered accusations against the Panamanian Government for exerting its sovereign fiscal right to demand tax clearance certificates. However, by withholding national taxes and other deductions from the paychecks of canal employees, the U.S. Government makes it impossible for them to receive tax clearance certificates and other benefits. In face of the constant U.S. provocations, including military actions that have already claimed the lives of three Panamanians, and much to the surprise and frustration [of the United States Government]—in addition to great readiness and good physical, tactical, and psychological abilities—we have shown much patience and maturity to prevent, to the extent possible, an excuse for an armed intervention. Of course, they can always invent an excuse or act without an excuse. There are painful historical examples of this.

In any event, our domestic action, based on the people's participation and organization and growing international support, makes it extremely difficult for them to opt for an armed invasion. This is because of the high price they would have to pay as a result of our stiff resistance and because they would never win, since our people have acquired great maturity and political organization skills as part of the revolutionary process, which makes us invincible. It is absurd to think that our homeland will return to the days of total submissiveness.

In addition—and this is a key factor—our people, organized in militias through the Dignity Battalions and through the patriotic and incorruptible Panama Defense Forces, have pledged before the altar of the homeland to resist, advance, and win. We will not add another star to the U.S. flag.

Members of the OAS Human Rights Commission: You have seen how human rights are respected in our country, despite the current situation of economic, diplomatic, and psychological warfare incited by the imperialist aggressor and its local allies, which in any other country would justify extraordinary measures limiting these rights. The right to defend their homeland is the citizens' main right. Therefore, we feel confident that your honest attitude will be to condemn the U.S. aggression against our people's basic human rights and recognize our people and government's heroic struggle in defending these violated rights.
For our people's human rights!
For real democracy with people's participation!
One single territory; one single flag!
A canal for peace and not for war!
Fatherland or death! Resist, advance, and win!
[Signed] Dignity Battalions' Patriotic Coordinating Command
Dr. Benjamin Colamarco Patino
Major Arturo Marquinez
Architect Enrique Thompson
Panama, 2 March 1989

U.S. Soldier Allegedly Mistreats Panamanian

PA0703005689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0010 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] In a violent manner and showing disrespect for the most basic human principles, a U.S. soldier named Palmer, I.D. number 213-78-3391, attacked Panamanian citizen Eduardo E. Bermudez, I.D. number 8-529-292.

The incident occurred at the entrance to Fort Kobbe, where Bermudez was detained for being near a defense post.

During the arrest, the U.S. soldier threw Bermudez to the floor, placed his foot on Bermudez' head, and gave him numerous blows that resulted in multiple abrasions on both knees and his left cheek, which Bermudez had to be treated for at Santo Tomas Hospital.

We must stress the violence used by U.S. soldiers in conducting arrests, thus violating the Panama Canal treaties and the human rights they claim to honor and respect. They should remember that they are in Panama, not Mississippi.

Argentina

Alfonsin Reaffirms Current Economic Policy

PY0603233489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0847 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Mar (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin tonight reaffirmed the current economic policy being implemented by the government, the objective of which is to continue fighting inflation, preserve the purchasing power of salaries, and increase exports. President Alfonsin said: "No one will succeed in changing our position. No one will make us change our course or crew."

He explained: "This decision is not the result of a whim or an obsession. Our only obsession is to ensure a harmonious coexistence among Argentines, to increase tolerance among us."

He also commented on the foreign debt. Regarding the creditor countries, he insisted: "They should also contribute to the solution of this problem."

Alfonsin announced that, as in December and January, the February inflation rate will be single digit.

President Alfonsin made these remarks during a speech at the opening ceremony of the Fourth International Conference on Soybean Research that started today at the Buenos Aires Grain Board. The conference, which will end on 9 March, is being attended by representatives from more than 60 countries.

President Alfonsin began his impromptu speech by commenting on the ever-increasing importance of soybeans for the world and for Argentina. The president then commented on Argentina's current economic situation, in view of "the people's concern over the problems we have been experiencing, particularly financial and exchange problems."

He said there are healthy concerns and "other concerns that are not so healthy. Therefore, it is appropriate that I make known to you the government's opinion on the matter."

Alfonsin quoted his speech at the Buenos Aires Merchandise Exchange meeting in July 1988, "when the increased inflation rate worried us all." He added: "At that time, I dangerously compromised myself to force the inflation rate to go down to only one digit in the last 3 months of 1988."

He emphasized the cooperation he received from business on that occasion to put into operation a plan "to reduce inflation aimed at protecting production and real salary."

He added: "As usual, there were people who predicted a disaster," but the results demonstrated that "inflation really fell, thus increasing real salary." He also said that "we knew we were going to go through difficult times because uncertainty tends to prevail during an election year, but we decided to implement the measures anyway."

He said: "We went ahead with it and were successful. Last December and January we had single-digit inflation, as we predicted. Today I would like to report that in February we also had single-digit inflation."

He went on to say that "for the first time in our administration we implemented measures that introduced a new factor, a free dollar market with a regular supply in the Central Bank." He added that a balance between supply and demand had to exist for the measures to function, and that "at no time was there any absolute certainty for those who sold dollars that the exchange rate was going to remain stable."

"It was well known that the government was going to defend its policy with responsibility. The predictions of what could happen became a reality because of various events. There was even an event that jeopardized democracy, but democracy came out strengthened, although that event did have an influence on behavior." He added that when "that balance disappears, the demand for dollars increases; therefore, we have to take measures with responsibility to continue to defend the same goals and ideas."

He said: "We took measures to preserve our reserves. They are complex measures to prevent speculation from influencing prices in Argentina." Alfonsin admitted that the measures "created problems," but said that "the important thing is that the main objective prevails. We continue to seek to reduce inflation and prevent the fall of real salaries. We are working basically for the well-being of the Argentine people. We are making efforts to increase our agricultural and industrial exports."

"No one will succeed in changing our position. We will persevere. No one will make us change our course or crew. The sooner people understand this, the sooner the economic markets will quiet down and interest rates drop," Alfonsin said.

The president said that when he took over, besides a deteriorated economy and "a very tough economic program," the "continuous surplus from our agricultural production that had been used to pay for all our mistakes was finished." A similar thing occurred with the pension funds, "until we had to resort to foreign loans that accumulated in an enormous debt, the burden of which is now on our backs." Besides all this, Argentine society "was still bleeding from old wounds," Alfonsin said. The president then made a summary of everything society had to go through to arrive where we are now, because "for the first time in 60 years a democratically elected government will leave the government to another democratically elected government."

"I want you to know that the measures we have adopted are not the result of a whim or an obsession. Our only obsession is ensuring a harmonious coexistance among Argentines and increasing tolerance among us," the president said.

Alfonsin said: "Some people do not seem to understand that we are in a crisis—or, what is worse, they know it but do not want to admit it. They think we can use a little magic to solve all our problems. We all know our problems cannot be solved that way."

Alfonsin also talked about Latin America, about "its indebtedness, the lack of understanding of its problems, the pressures on governments—all this at a time when democracy is taking hold again, and when countries are burdened by economic and social problems." Alfonsin insisted on the need "to avoid taking a stand against coexistance," a topic on which he admitted he had a different position than sectors "that want to implement drastic measures that we believe will create resentments, and on which a future cannot be built."

Later Alfonsin said: "Today the world knows we are serious about the way we handle our problems. We want to avoid serving only a sector of the population and to attack the overall problem. Our people have to understand that our situation is such that not everyone can obtain everything they legitimately think it is their right to obtain."

After expressing confidence in the future, addressing the foreign delegates to the conference Alfonsin said: "We are dealing with a very serious problem in my country and Latin America: the problem of the debt. Latin America will have transferred some $200 billion outside its borders by the end of this decade if the situation continues as it is today." Alfonsin said this situation is "absurd in a continent marked by poverty, misery, and neglect."

Regarding the new increase in international interest rates, Alfonsin said: "We are in a democracy, even though a poor democracy, and we have to act seriously. That is the reason why we need the support of creditor banks to face our interest payments." Otherwise, he added, "we will continue to use our reserves to import goods necessary for our economic growth."

Alfonsin recalled former international experiences and mentioned that after World War I the victorious countries "imposed harsh economic conditions on those countries that lost the war. The result was the appearance of dictators throughout Europe." After World War II, however, the victorious countries showed "imagination and creativity, and offered the Marshall Plan, which led to the appearance of the current prosperous European democracies," Alfonsin added.

Alfonsin stressed the efforts involved in "the extraordinary democratization process" in Latin America, adding that "this situation cannot go on." The president then said: "World peace and Western security are closely linked to the solution of this scourge that has fallen upon the developing world."

Alfonsin concluded by again addressing the foreign delegates, saying: "Please be our ambassadors and take to your countries this concern of Latin America, a continent that has decided to join the efforts of mankind everywhere to demand nothing more, but nothing less, than justice."

Armed Forces Cited on Election Process Support

Navy Chief Defends Constitution

PY0403023389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2101 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 3 Mar (TELAM)—Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Ramon Arosa has promised that the Armed Forces will confirm their democratic vocation on 14 May during the elections "that they must protect," thus helping to "support the citizenry's electoral choice, in compliance with their military oath to defend the national Constitution."

Arosa made this statement in a speech during a ceremony to commemorate the 132d anniversary of the death of Admiral Guillermo Brown. Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena presided over the ceremony at the Puerto Belgrano Base. The ceremony took place in Juncal Square, in front of Adm Brown's monument.

Arosa said that "the meaningful and simple act of the elections" will bring about the "ideal" of the "three Armed Forces united in a common task—as custodians, and not as tutors, of a people who are expressing their sovereignty, in keeping with the Constitution, to follow the only feasible path to a better future."

In reference to the attack on the 3d Regiment in La Tablada, Arosa said: "We military men may make a mistake; we may be judged and sentenced for our actions; but we will never deny our nationality and lifestyle."

The military chief said that Adm Brown's "respect for the national institutions" still "continues to inspire his heirs, who in the past 5 years have demonstrated their conviction to consolidate our constitutional system."

Arosa said: "They were difficult years, turbulent days in the life of the nation. Those days opened painful wounds, not only in the Armed Forces, but also in the entire society." He added that the Armed Forces have demonstrated "in their subordination to civilian power, and in their obedience to the law and justice, that they have a clear sense of responsibility. They have put the

interests of the nation and its institutions above personal interests." He said: "We do not speak rhetorically about democracy and its value as a system. We practice it and have helped strengthen it."

Regarding the La Tablada incident, Arosa said: "Unfortunately, some people who do not believe in democracy, but who seek protection under it, have again recently demonstrated the irrationality of violence as an exclusive means of imposing ideas." He paid homage to the people "who fell as victims to the insane subversion." He said that "the blood shed is the same that runs in our veins."

Arosa concluded by saying that the forces under his command believe "in civilized dissent that admits and respects other ideas without discrediting one's own. Respect is essential for peaceful coexistence in a nation that needs to reconcile the ideas of the various sectors in order to aspire to a common destiny of greatness."

The ceremony was attended by Defense Secretary Juan Gauna; Admiral Fernando Nardiz Vial, chief of staff of the Spanish Navy; Juan Carlos Cabiron, mayor of Bahia Blanca; Nestor Giorno, mayor of Coronel Rosales; and General Osvaldo Cordoba, commander of V Corps.

Other officers attending the ceremony were Vice Admiral Adolfo Arduino, commander of naval operations; Rear Admiral Emilio Osses, commander of the Sea Fleets; Rear Admiral Hector Campoamor, commander of Naval Aviation; Rear Admiral Fernando Garcia, commander of the Marine Infantry; and Rear Admiral Oscar Albino, chief of the Puerto Belgrano Naval Base.

After the ceremony, Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena gave a news conference. In answer to a question, he said: "If the subversive attacks become generalized, the Armed Forces will be able to participate within the framework of the law."

Asked about the charges that some of the people arrested in La Tablada were reportedly found dead, Jaunarena said that "they are only charges that must be proved." He added that "they are false" but that "the Justice Department is working on them."

He said. "They are trying to hide the real dimension of the attack on the regiment by this messianic minority. They are trying to change their role and transform the attackers into victims." He added: "Fortunately, Argentina and the world were able to see—through the media, even through live television—how the events took place. There is also a judge working with complete freedom, given to him by the institutions."

Asked if the presence of former Lieutenant Colonel Gonzalez Naya represents "the end of the crisis in the Army," the minister said that this confirms that "this group of officers who at one time went underground has practically disappeared" and that this is part "of a process of normalization in the Army."

At the conclusion of the news conference, when a reporter asked Jaunarena about the situation of Captain Astiz, the minister said: "He continues in active duty."

Air Force Position 'Apolitical'

PY0403032489 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2206 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Mar (DYN)—Air Force Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ernesto Crespo today asserted the Air Force's "apolitical position" regarding the presidential elections of next May. He said that the Air Force should be "alert and prepared" to eradicate, within the legal framework, the "subversive extremists."

"We do not believe in supporting or excluding any parties in opposition to the will of the people in the elections," Crespo said during a ceremony in which he handed out sabres to the new brigadier generals, recently promoted with Senate approval.

The ceremony took place tonight in the Air Force Officers Club, and it was attended by Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena, Chief of the Joint Staff General Teodoro Waldner, and other governmental, congressional, and military authorities.

Crespo also said that the Air Force members "are not part of an autonomous institution, but part of the nation, whose laws we respect, just as we respect the legitimate national authorities who must issue the legal regulations for our activities."

"Therefore, noncompliance with these regulations is inacceptable, and no man in this force may receive an order that is not in keeping with the nation's laws and regulations. Otherwise, we will repeat those mistakes with which we have had enough experience," Crespo said.

The Air Force chief of staff also referred to "the recent attacks by subversive extremists" which "once again caused bloodshed in the country." He said that through those episodes the extremists tried "to impose ideologies that are foreign to national sentiments."

"Therefore, it is our duty to remain alert. We must be prepared to eradicate them and be ready to intervene—when and how the political power and the appropriate laws tell us to," he added.

Crespo then said: "The attack against a base of the national Armed Forces and the resulting deaths are undeniable proof of the danger existing" this year, when "our country is concentrating on the election of its future governors. All citizens are responsible for maintaining order and safety, and for preserving republican institutions."

Crespo stressed the "clear and frank relations between the Air Force and the political institutions it depends on." Such relations and "the loyalty that must exist between the two are indispensable to ensuring compliance with the mission entrusted to us."

The following brigadier generals received their sabres, which were blessed by Air Force Chaplain Ovidio Tripodi: Arturo Herberto Ay, Roberto Petrich, Raul Camussi, Romeo Gallo, Manuel Villagran, Hector Valeri, and Anibal Vernengo.

Italian Official Arrives for 3-Day Visit

PY0603021889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1751 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 4 Mar (TELAM)—Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Susana Agnelli arrived here this morning to ratify the special partnership treaty between the Argentine and Italian Governments.

Agnelli, who will stay 3 days in Argentina, will meet with President Raul Alfonsin, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, UCR presidential candidate Eduardo Angeloz, Justicialist presidential candidate Carlos Menem, and UCD [Democratic Centrist Union] presidential candidate Alvaro Alsogaray. [passage omitted]

Comments on U.S. Debt Position

PY0603175189 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The foreign debt was discussed at a meeting between President Raul Alfonsin and Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Susana Agnelli. This preceded another meeting with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, during which an Italian-Argentine agreement was ratified.

Deputy Foreign Minister Susana Agnelli has maintained that the United States should adopt a new position on the foreign debt issue, not just shunt it out to the IMF. The Italian deputy foreign minister also asserted that this view is shared by all the EEC countries. Susana Agnelli made this statement after a meeting with President Raul Alfonsin at the Olivos Residence which lasted approximately 40 minutes. The cooperation agreement between Argentina and Italy and the political and institutional situations in both countries were reviewed during the meeting.

As for the progress of the cooperation agreement, Susana Agnelli said that her government is interested in facilitating its implementation and has announced that as of late April, many of the projects for the medium and small industries should be getting under way.

Coast Guard Captures South Korean Fishing Boat

PY0303201689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1915 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Mar (NA)—It was officially reported that today the Naval Prefecture captured a South Korean fishing boat operating illegally in Argentine waters. Air support was needed in the operation, because the boat tried to escape to the open sea.

The fishing boat "Chong Yang 501" was captured in the northern zone of San Jorge Gulf, Chubut, by the Coast Guard ship "Mantilla" and a PA-61 airplane.

The Naval Prefecture reported that the fishing boat was carrying 160 tons of squid, that its captain is Kim Yeon Zo, and that its crew consists of 29 men.

The "Chong Yang 501" was fishing in the position of 45 degrees, 46 minutes, 3 seconds south, and 60 degrees, 47 minutes, 3 seconds west.

This morning the Coast Guard ship was escorting the South Korean fishing boat to Puerto Madryn, where the appropriate measures against a violation of the National Fishing Law will be made.

Recently graduated officers were aboard the "Mantilla," and this was an opportunity for them "to practice what they had studied in this field."

Draft Bill Rejects UK Decision on Falklands

PY0403020289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0009 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Mar (TELAM)—It was officially reported here today that Argentina has confirmed its sovereign rights over the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands, as well as over the Argentine sector of Antarctica. In so doing, Argentina rejects the British decision to include all these territories in an international agreement on ecology and environment.

The Argentine decision is stated in a draft bill sent by the Executive Branch to congress. The draft bill proposes that congress ratify "the convention about the internationally important marshlands, especially those that are the home of seabirds," signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971, and modified by the protocol of Paris in 1983.

Beside ratifying the convention, the draft bill proposes that Argentina also reject the British decision to include the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands in the convention by confirming Argentine sovereign rights over those archipelagos, "which are part of our national territory."

The British decision to include the islands in the international convention was reported by the United Kingdom to the UNESCO general director on 19 April 1984.

The draft bill mentions the UN resolutions that acknowledge the dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, as well as the resolutions that advocate negotiations "to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definite solution" to the conflict, with the mediation of the UN secretary general.

Argentina also rejects the British decision, made on the same occasion, to include the "British Antarctic Territory" in the convention. Argentina confirms its rights—including the corresponding maritime jurisdictional or sovereign rights—over the Argentine Antarctic Territory.

On this subject, Argentina mentions the exceptions on Antarctic territorial claims made in the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, which was signed by Argentina and the United Kingdom, among other countries.

Candidate Menem Rules Out New Falklands War

PY0403171689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1042 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Mendoza, 4 Mar (NA)—Justicialist Party presidential candidate Carlos Saul Menem has stated that the future Justicialist administration "will not go as far as" waging a war against the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands. Menem also said that he will talk to Saul Ubaldini, secretary general of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor], in view of rumors that this labor organization is planning to call a general strike before the presidential elections set for 14 May this year.

Although Menem did rule out the possibility of a new clash with the British, he confirmed that is is "quite possible" that should he become president he will implement "some economic sanctions" against the interests of the British Crown in Argentina as a reprisal for the "depredation of fishing resources" in the waters that surround the archipelago.

Asked whether he agreed with the CGT's decision to develop a plan of struggle which could culminate in a general strike before 14 May, Menem answered that he would have to talk to his fellow party member Saul Ubaldini about this subject. Menem also emphasized the "equanimity" that the CGT had displayed so far.

Menem made these remarks at the Huentala Hotel in the city of Mendoza where he started a new stage of his tour through [words indistinct] and the Cuyo region.

Speaking about the conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the ownership of the Malvinas Islands, Menem said that if he wins the elections he will push for economic sanctions against the British Government because they are "draining the resources of our seas" by granting licenses to fish in the exclusion zone. Menem warned that "because of of an erratic foreign policy, Argentina has been losing ground at the international level since 1983, so now we must stop the United Kingdom somehow." [passage omitted]

World Bank Grants Loan for Housing, Agriculture

PY0603182689 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Economic Coordination Secretary Adolfo Canitrot has just confirmed that the World Bank directorate has decided to extend two credits totalling $420 million for agricultural and housing projects. The secretary also said that the World Bank directorate has maintained its decision to suspend the disbursement of $350 million in credits for the implementation of commercial policy and for the financial sector. [passage omitted]

Conservative Popular Party Joins FREJUPO

PY0603143889 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0102 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 4 Mar (DYN)—The national convention of the Conservative Popular Party (PCP) today approved the party's participation in the Popular Justicialist Front (FREJUPO) and has lent its support to the Carlos Menem and Eduardo Duhalde presidential ticket.

The PDP convention was held in Buenos Aires today. It was presided over by San Luis delegate Rodolfo Rodriguez Saa, and 44 representatives of the countries various electoral districts were present. [passage omitted]

CGT Calls for Economic Policy Changes

PY0603020889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2057 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Mar (TELAM)—The General Confederation of Labor [CGT] today asked the government "to correct" its economic policy and urged it "not to persist in the mistake of promoting speculation at the expense of the people's suffering." The CGT contends that "every measure concerning monetary exchange or finances has immediately affected the workers' purchasing power."

In a communique signed by Secretary General Saul Ubaldini, the CGT executive council states that it will evaluate "the current serious socioeconomic situation and its alarming characteristics."

The communique adds that in Argentina "there is a responsible, organized labor movement, which is acting within the law to preserve the constitutional system we have won for ourselves." The CGT notes, however, that "no one should mistakingly believe that the workers will give in to those who promote social injustice."

The CGT communique adds: "We are now viewing with great pain the damage caused to the people by insensitive financial policies that have caused Venezuela to become a battlefield." The CGT says: "We want to make every effort to keep our people from suffering a similar, regrettable experience."

Brazil

Sarney Will Not Attend Hague Ozone Conference

PY0403170189 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 89 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—President Jose Sarney has accepted the advice of the Foreign Ministry and his military ministers and has decided not to attend the international conference on ozone layer protection that will be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 11 March. During the conference the French Government will propose the creation of an international entity for the preservation of the Amazon region. The Brazilian Government will be represented at the conference by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Paulo Tarso Flexa de Lima. "Itamaraty thinks Sarney's presence at the conference would not be politically advisable because at The Hague meeting Brazil will be cast in the role of the bad guy," a diplomat remarked.

Sarney Denies World Bank Funds Commitment

PY0603164189 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Mar 89 p 34

[By special correspondent Agostinho Vieira]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana—"The World Bank (IBRD) does not have $4.8 billion committed for Brazil; if it had, it would be good for our country." This remark was made by President Jose Sarney yesterday in response to reports that the Brazilian Government has not submitted specific projects to enable the World Bank to disburse the $4.8 billion loan that it had previously approved. Since the funds committed have not been used by Brazil, the country would be paying fines of $30 million per year. This report has also been refuted by the president.

The president said: "These international agencies are increasingly acting as auditors for the creditor countries and as policy formulators, thereby going beyond their original functions. I remember my old friend Nilo Coelho who, as governor of Pernambuco State at the time of the Alliance for Progress, used to say that international loans are like the horizon: When you think you are about to touch them, they move further away."

Asked about his meeting with U.S. President George Bush and about his reaction to the Group of Eight proposal to promote the political negotiation of the foreign debt, Sarney said that he reminded the U.S. President of "the potential power of the foreign debt to destabilize Latin American countries."

The Brazilian president noted: "This has now been confirmed by the sad episodes taking place in Venezuela."

According to Sarney, the Group of Eight—of which Brazil is a founding member—is preparing a document that will be presented to the foreign ministers of the EEC countries in their preparatory meeting to be held in April.

This document asserts that the political negotiation of the foreign debt is the only acceptable alternative for the Third World countries. The document is being prepared on the basis of the Rio de Janeiro declaration that was signed by the foreign ministers of the debtor countries in December 1988.

Sarney added: "I was the first person to propose at a UN assembly that the foreign debt be treated politically. Since then, the idea has been gaining momentum, and it has now become our only alternative. We will now talk frankly about this alternative with the United States and other creditor countries."

Despite his strong remark against the World Bank and the creditor countries, President Sarney refused to comment on the possibility that Brazil might declare a new moratorium, a topic that has been widely discussed by diplomatic sectors of the Brazilian President's delegation to Guyana.

Government Urges Release of World Bank Loan

PY0303125789 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 March 89 p 19

[Excerpts] Brasilia—The Brazilian Government will submit to the World Bank another report on the financial performance of Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Companies, Inc]. This report will answer the two letters that the bank sent to the Planning Ministry and to the Mines and Energy Ministry. The bank claims that the Angra III nuclear plant is economically unfeasible. This claim has hindered the release of a $500-million loan for Eletrobras. [passage omitted]

The two letters from the World Bank have caused deep displeasure in the government, especially among military men, and within the Foreign Ministry, which regard the letters as intervention in Brazilian domestic affairs.

The military, the Foreign Ministry, and the economic sector of the government believe that the position of the bank toward Angra III is based on the ecological problems in the Amazonian region, where hydroelectric power plants will be built.

The Brazilian Government report says that the government wants to expedite the release of the loan to prevent negative balances in 1989. [passage omitted]

PFL Nominates Chaves as Presidential Candidate

PY0403035889 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Mar 89 p 1

[Summary] The PFL National Executive Board yesterday decided by acclamation to nominate former Minister Aureliano Chaves as their candidate for president. PFL President Marco Maciel has nonetheless said that he will try to reverse this decision.

Foreign, Communications Ministers Ailing

PY0103021189 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Dr Francisco Vargas of the Sao Paulo Heart Institute [INCOR] has confirmed that Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre has pneumonia. Although he no longer has a fever, he must rest for at least a week. Doctors will not allow Minister Sodre to accompany President Jose Sarney to Suriname and Guyana on 2 March.

Meanwhile, Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes suffered a lung problem today, on his 2d day in the hospital. According to a medical bulletin issued early this afternoon by the press office of the Sao Paulo University Hospital, Minister Magalhaes suffered a lung congestion resulting from a problem in his left ventricle, which was solved with intravenous medicine. [passage omitted]

The medical bulletin states: On his 2d day in the INCOR heart unit, Minister Magalhaes is recovering from a myocardial failure. Today at about 0700, he suffered from lung congestion resulting from failure of the left ventricle, which is not unusual following this kind of cardiac arrest. The minister was given intravenous medicine immediately, thus reversing the complication in a few minutes and allowing the patient to return to his former stable condition. [passage omitted]

Minister Magalhaes 'Stable'

PY0403011989 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The medical condition of Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes is stable. He is hospitalized in the Sao Paulo Heart Institute, INCOR, recovering from a heart attack. [passage omitted]

Today's bulletin on the minister's health is basically the same as yesterday's: His condition is stable. Dr Bernardino Tranquesi Jr, chief of the INCOR intensive care unit, is optimistic about the minister's recovery. [passage omitted]

Sarney Meets With PMDB Ministers 6 Mar

PY0704030889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Six Brazilian Democratic Movement Party [PMDB] ministers and Brasilia Governor Joaquim Roriz met with President Jose Sarney today to outline a strategy for the party's convention scheduled for next weekend.

During the meeting held at Alvorada Palace, the ministers and the Brasilia governor assessed the PMDB convention prospects. [passage omitted]

Iraq To Purchase INPE Satellite, Technology

PY0603173489 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Mar 89 p A-10

[By Ricardo Julio]

[Text] The sale of a Brazilian satellite to Iraq, with in-depth technological exchange, is in its final stage of negotiation. The $40-million contract concluding the transaction should have been signed by mid-January by an Iraqi delegation specially sent to Brazil, but sudden changes in the Space Research Institute [INPE] board changed the program. The INPE is the organization in charge of designing and developing the satellite project.

Brigadier Hugo de Oliveira Piva [as published], retired, and the Sao Paulo company Specialized Engineers, Inc (ENGESA) have been appointed by the Army minister and by the Trade Development, Science and Technology Ministry to negotiate the sale to Iraq. They are now discussing with INPE the new basis and date for signing the contract. ENGESA will probably subcontract the INPE to build the satellite.

The Iraqi satellite is called Satellite-X at the INPE in view of the secrecy surrounding its negotiation. The satellite will be similar to that of the SCD-1 data-collecting satellite, which was developed by the INPE within the framework of the Brazilian Complete Space Mission (MECB). The only difference between the two is that Satellite-X will probably carry a French high-resolution camera while the SCD-1 carries two data collectors and retransmitters. The camera will enable the satellite to observe objects on the Earth's surface in detail within the visible and infra-red optical spectrum.

To sell its satellite project to Iraq, the INPE had to win the international tender bidding, which was also disputed by the PRC and by France. The INPE won the bidding because it was the only bidder to offer to exchange technology. The satellite production program proposed by the INPE foresees the training of Iraqi technicians at Sao Jose dos Campos (SP). In addition to the training of technicians, Iraq seeks to obtain the technology needed to build

laboratories where it will manufacture, assemble, and test its own satellites. That is why Iraq wants to buy—for $50 million—a laboratory similar to the INPE's Integration and Testing Laboratory.

EMBRAER To Offer New Plane Model

PY0403183889 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] wants to increase its plane sales abroad by launching a new plane model next year: the CBA-123. This plane will replace the Bandeirantes.

In the short term, however, EMBRAER is negotiating to sell 80 Tucano planes to the French Air Force.

The new Tucano is slightly different from the original model. EMBRAER has followed the suggestions of French technicians and equipped the planes with air brakes capable of slowing down the planes while in the air and an anti-freezing system for cold regions.

Besides the new equipment, the plane has new colors: white, red, and blue, the colors of France. The new Tucano will be flown to France, where it will remain until October, when it will be shown in (La Buge) Hall. EMBRAER has proposed that France replace the old (Fokker Magisters), which are no longer produced, with the Tucanos. If the deal is closed, EMBRAER will sell France 85 planes in the first stage.

[Begin recording of EMBRAER military sales manager Tulio Silva Brandao] We are confident that we will be able to satisfy all their requirements. We expect to close a good deal in a short time. [end recording]

The Tucano, however, is not the only plane that is attracting foreign buyers. EMBRAER is currently developing a new model of civil aircraft that promises to be just as attractive: the CBA-123, a Bandeirantes-class plane with a 19-passenger capacity. The difference is that the CBA-123 will be more modern and sophisticated.

Right now only the structure is ready, but already 50 companies have expressed interest in the plane. The new model is being developed in a joint venture with an Argentine factory. It will have a tail engine, a pressurized cabin, and a cruising speed of 650 km per hour. The first flight of the prototype is scheduled to take place in January 1990, when EMBRAER will stop producing the Bandeirantes.

Price Freeze, Interest Rate Levels To Continue

PY0403011289 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Mar 89

[By Lucy Bruni]

[Text] In a meeting with businessmen in Salvador, Bahia State, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega said the Summer Plan results have been positive so far because the plan's main objective—to control inflation—has been achieved.

Minister Da Nobrega added that the government does not intend to remove any price freeze now, although it must correct the prices of some products mistakenly frozen below their manufacturing cost. The minister said the interest rates will continue high to control consumption.

Commenting on the general strike scheduled for 14-15 March by the CUT [Sole Central Organization of Workers] and the CGT [General Central Organization of Workers], the finance minister said that strike supports inflation because it is directed against the Summer Plan.

Feb Inflation at 3.6 Percent

PY0103020189 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Summary] The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, IBGE, has reported that the inflation rate for February was 3.6 percent. This is the first inflation rate under the Summer Plan.

Two New Export Processing Zones Created

PY0203024089 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Mar 80 p 7-B

[Summary] The National Export Processing Zone (ZPE) Council yesterday created two new zones. One will be established in Sao Luis (Maranhao State) and the other in Joao Pessoa (Paraiba State). In the same meeting, the council approved a decree establishing penalties for those who violate the ZPE laws. The Sao Luis ZPE will be engaged in mineral processing and metalwork. The Joao Pessoa ZPE will manufacture electronic equipment.

Colombia

Government, UP Reach Agreement on Funeral

PA0703024189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0048 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Bogota, 6 Mar (EFE)—The Colombian Government and the Patriotic Union (UP) agreed today that the funeral of leftist leader Jose Antequera—murdered on 3 March—which was to take place today, will be carried out tomorrow.

The Bogota mayor's office issued a communique authorizing a demonstration during Antequera's funeral services, after the UP presented "an alternate" site for the demonstration and date of the funeral.

Antequera was to be buried today at noon (1700 GMT); however, because the mayor of Bogota issued a communique banning the demonstration that was to accompany the funeral procession, the UP canceled the ceremony, postponing it until tomorrow at 1000 (1500 GMT).

The politician's body—which has been treated to withstand 3 more days without showing signs of decomposition—has been at the District Council's office in Bogota since 3 March; tomorrow it will be transferred to the Central Cemetery, 1 km away in downtown Bogota.

Bogota Mayor Andres Pastrana said in a communique that the municipal government offers the necessary guarantees permitting the funeral and demonstration organized by the UP as a protest and homage for its murdered leader.

Pastrana issued a decree last night banning "any political, labor, or religious activity" during Antequera's funeral and restricting the funeral procession organized by the UP from downtown Bogota to the cemetery.

The decree also established a dry law in Bogota and the suspension of classes at all government and private schools. The mayor's office extended this order until 8 March at 0000 (0500 GMT).

Jose Antequera, 34, was secretary of the Communist Youth (JUCO) and was regarded as the UP's "number two man." He was shot to death on 3 March by several men at El Dorado Airport.

The funeral was to take place today; however, because of the government measures, UP leaders insisted that they did not want a "clandestine funeral" and presented an alternative plan, which was finally accepted.

Since the UP was created in November 1985, approximately 1,000 of its activists have been killed, including its first president, former presidential candidate Jaime Pardo Leal, on 11 October 1987.

Current UP President Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa went into self-exile on 28 February, 1 day after four UP leaders were killed in downtown Bogota and 3 days before Antequera's murder.

'Isolated' Terrorist Incidents Reported

PA0603190889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1753 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Interview with Major General Manuel Alberto Murillo by Jesus Garzon at the Defense Ministry General Secretariat; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Garzon] We are here at the Defense Ministry's General Secretariat with Major General Manuel Alberto Murillo, who will report on the situation nationwide:

[Murillo] There have been several isolated incidents of terrorism today, namely in Uraba region, where two light aircraft were set on fire. Later, a packing machine and several vehicles were also set on fire at the Santa Maria farm. There was another terrorist incident in northern Santander, on the Tibu-Petrolea highway, where oil exploration equipment belonging to an oil company was dynamited. Fortunately, everything is calm in the rest of Colombia. Both national and Bogota District government authorities have taken all the necessary measures to prevent any violent incidents.

[Garzon] Is the funeral for the Patriotic Union leader [Jose Antequera] taking place as planned?

[Murillo] According to police reports we have received, the events surrounding the funeral are proceeding normally.

[Garzon] The situation is completely calm nationwide?

[Murillo] As far as I know, the situation is completely calm in Bogota and nationwide, aside from these two isolated incidents.

M-19 To Lay Down Weapons 'Immediately'

PA0603133889 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] M-19 spokesman Alfonso Cabrera has announced that the M-19 Movement, which has agreed to the truce, will lay down its weapons immediately in Santander, Tolima, Huila, and Caqueta Departments. Cabrera said that movement representatives, prior to actually laying down their arms, will attend a meeting in the Caqueta mountains with M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro Leongomez. At the meeting Pizarro will proclaim that the members of the guerrilla movement wish to resume civilian life.

The M-19 has presented two proposals aimed at strengthening the peace process. They have proposed the creation of a front against impunity [frente contra la impunidad] and that the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board and the members of a high-level commission study solutions to the problem of violence.

Paraguay

Laino Calls Meeting With Rodriguez 'Cordial'

PY0403035589 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 3 Mar 89 p 8

[Excerpt] Domingo Laino, head of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] labeled his meeting this morning with Provisional President Andres Rodriguez as "very cordial." On leaving the presidential office, Laino said: "We found some flexibility on national issues related to the upcoming elections." This was Laino's first meeting with a Paraguayan president in his more than 30 years of political activity.

Laino said that President Rodriguez expressed positions similar to the suggestions and demands made by the National Accord. He said that "there seems to be a flexible framework for continuing discussions on this matter, so that we can find a common path toward a more or less equitable agreement."

Laino said: "We found a very interesting predisposition. We are not leaving this meeting with a pessimistic attitude. We have a very good predisposition. We believe that flexibility will prevail." He also indicated that he will meet with Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana this afternoon.

Laino said: "We are moving ahead. It is not easy, of course. We are coming out of 34 years of an oppressive, closed, harsh model. Everyone, both the government and the opposition, must look at this situation with great maturity and good judgment. We must avoid passionate or radical positions."

He added: "We are not maximalists. We know that we cannot reach democratic perfection overnight. We can accept positive answers to some of our demands and negative answers to others. This does not mean that we will not participate. We want better elections than in the past. [passage omitted]

Political Rallies Still Banned at Universities

PY0603132889 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 6 Mar 89 p 22

[Text] No political rallies, meetings, or activities may take place on the premises of any of the schools of the National University of Asuncion.

The Higher University Board met hastily to discuss some university-related matters. They issued a reminder that political activities are banned from university premises.

The communique of the board states: "The Honorable Higher University Board reminds the university community that a ban on political and partisan activities on university premises is still in force in keeping with Article 5 of Law 1291/87."

The communique added that "this communique is prompted by activities that have been taking place at university premises without the appropriate authorization."

Laino Appointed to Liberal International Post

PY0603182889 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 4 Mar 89 p 12

[Text] Following a meeting at Domingo Laino's home yesterday afternoon, it was reported that Laino has been appointed Progressive Liberal International vice president. The Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] head will share this position with former Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez.

Laino was informed of his appointment by Spanish Deputy Raul Morodo, who has come to our country at Suarez' request to inform Laino of his appointment.

Laino said: "I feel very moved and very honored by this appointment. I am the first Paraguayan to be appointed to such a position. I promise to do my best in my new tasks."

Deputy Morodo said that Spain is following the Paraguayan political process, which began on 3 February, with great attention. He added: "We are very happy to see that Paraguay has begun a democratization process that respects fundamental liberties."

Taking into account that the PLRA is not the only liberal party in our country, we asked Laino if his appointment meant that Liberal International has a special preferences for his party. Laino answered: "This is merely the Liberal International's recognition for our work, our struggle, and our contributions."

Venezuela

Government Lifts Curfew Throughout Country

PA0603164789 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1632 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The national government has just lifted the curfew throughout the national territory and appeals to all citizens to return to their jobs and their normal schedules.

Upon announcing the suspension of the curfew throughout the country, the Executive Branch reiterates that constitutional guarantees remain suspended.

Defense Minister Comments

PA0603170689 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1635 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Venezuelan Defense Minister General Italo del Valle Alliegro has just announced that the curfew has been lifted throughout the country.

The curfew was still in effect only in Maracay, Valencia, and the Federal District, but now the government has decided to lift the curfew throughout the country.

The defense minister said the situation throughout the country is virtually normal. He is meeting right now with President Carlos Andres Perez, the interior minister, and the governor of the Federal District.

During a meeting with newsmen, the defense minister admitted that the past few days have been painful for the military. He said there is an adequate supply of food and medicine. Commenting on the dead and wounded, the defense minister said Venezuela lost much through the useless death of people. He said the Armed Forces never acted in a disorderly or repressive manner.

[Begin Del Valle Alliegro recording] When we take to the streets, we do so not to repress people but to reestablish order and to permit normal activities throughout the country. When we station soldiers on public buses to keep the buses from being set on fire, we are not

repressing anyone; we are trying to reestablish normalcy. When we station soldiers on the trucks that bring food to Caracas, we are not repressing anyone; we are bringing order. When we station soldiers at food warehouses, we are not repressing anyone. When we station soldiers at stores, marketplaces, banks, and gas stations, we are not repressing anyone; we are contributing to normalcy. When we station soldiers at media buildings, we are not repressing anyone; we are contributing to the climate of trust that must exist in the country.

This is a very different kind of Armed Forces. The word repression should not be used, because repression implies other actions that were not taken by the Armed Forces in the past, are not being taken now, and will not be taken in the future.

We act when circumstances force us to act to reestablish the legal order that the Venezuelans choose every 5 years, when they elect their officials. [end recording]

Perez Stresses Need for Restructuring
PA0703022589 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0007 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Unattributed report on interview with President Carlos Andres Perez by Dr Marcel Granier on the latter's "Prime Time" program on 5 March in Caracas—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] During Dr Marcel Granier's program, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez assessed past developments, saying we have a comprehensive and efficient society but that too much time and resources have been squandered. He said these mistakes and omissions led to the explosion of social violence that results from the injustices built into our society.

[Perez] "To blame the explosion on any one event is absurd. We cannot blame this situation on any one development. The explosion is the manifestation of long-repressed forces that had been experiencing an unjust and uncertain situation for many years. Any pretext served as the spark or trigger that unleashed overwhelming mass protests. Had we not been prudent and balanced, the initial confrontation would have been brutal; I do not know what would have happened in Caracas. Therefore we decided to handle the situation with calm, yet with total firmness."

President Perez noted that before the economic and social measures were implemented, all segments of society were consulted. The same thing was done regarding the increase in prices and wages. It is realized—Perez said—that these increases do not solve the problems of low-income groups. However, they were necessary to prevent further deterioration of the workers' income. The president stressed that everyone must make sacrifices to lead the country toward a healthy economy.

[Perez] "I am certain the country will take advantage or is taking advantage of this crisis to move ahead. The crisis is giving us the opportunity to correct all the mistakes we have made. I think the current situation is not one that will force us to change the course we have set to lead our economic process to solid ground and to begin to really grow and improve the welfare of Venezuelans. Many times the people and low-income sectors have been calmed with wage increases. However, those increase do not mean a thing if the inflationary process continues and if we continue handling the economy, as we have in the past, in a not very serious manner.

"What the country needs is a true improvement in the social conditions of all sectors of society. That cannot be done unless we change how we handle the economy, which is what we are doing. I am going to continue on the path we have outlined, not because I have been challenged by a specific group and not because I have to prove to some group of Venezuelans that the government can impose itself. No. I think we must do so through a concerted effort. We have no other alternative but to restructure the Venezuelan economy. Granted, we must be sufficiently prudent to know how we must deal with each situation. However, if we do not have cooperation from all segments of society, we will go nowhere."

To conclude, Carlos Andres Perez said this situation has taught us an important lesson. He added we must base the country's life on certain and legal foundations. We must not continue living on lies and illusions the way our past oil wealth let us.

[Perez] "We must begin to realize the gig is up. We must put things on the table. We must begin gradually without wanting to abuse the already battered trust and almost nonexistent patience of the majority of the people. We must act gradually, telling the truth, using facts, and putting things in their place. However, we must not believe we can solve everything overnight. We must gradually implement the measures that will fully restructure the country's economy. That is what the government has been doing; that is the plan we prepared; that is the plan we will continue implementing because Venezuela needs it.

"There is another thing: Why do I have authority in the country or why do I trust the country if I am not going to use my authority now? That is the question I ask myself. I answered myself, and my actions during all these days show that I gave myself a just and legitimate answer: to fulfill my duty as the leader of Venezuela.

[Granier] "Thank you, Mr President, and let's get moving."

[Perez] "Let's get moving."

Suriname

Reportage on Visit by Brazil's President Sarney

Shankar on Visit's 'Importance'

FL0203210889 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] President Ramsewak Shankar has called on the Surinamese people to give a warm welcome to Brazilian President Jose Sarney during his official visit to Suriname. Last night, during a short television speech, the president emphasized the importance of this visit for Suriname. President Sarney arrives in Suriname this afternoon on a 1-day official state visit. President Shankar stated that Brazilians always [passage indistinct].

Sarney Cited on Cooperation

PY0303025389 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[By Lourival Macedo]

[Text] During President Sarney's visit to Suriname, the two presidents will sign agreements for cooperation in the agriculture sector on techniques for planting soybeans and for fighting a fly that attacks fruits, as well as for cooperation in the health and energy sectors.

After the first working meeting with President Ramsewak Shankar, President Jose Sarney said that, like Brazil, Suriname is consolidating its democracy and thus needs help.

[Begin recording] [Sarney] First of all, I want to express my thanks for the affectionate welcome we have received here in Paramaribo. This affection is not only for President Sarney. It expresses the profound friendship the Surinamese people feel toward Brazil.

[Reporter] Has Brazil been cooperating closely with Suriname?

[Sarney] We have been cooperating with the Surinamese Government and people, and we hope to broaden this cooperation still further. Like Brazil, Suriname is consolidating its democratic process, and we know this consolidation is hard and that we must help Suriname. Our visit to this country is also a symbol of our solidarity with the democratic process being developed here. [end recording]

President Sarney has a full agenda in Paramaribo. In the afternoon he honored the World War II dead. Later he was decorated by President Shankar with the [words indistinct] Great Sash.

Setting aside protocol, President Sarney walked from the war dead monument to the government house. Talking with journalists, he said Brazil had turned its back on Suriname for 300 years and that only now are the two countries moving toward a closer relationship.

Right now President Sarney is receiving the greetings of the Surinamese Assembly. Tonight he will decorate his Surinamese counterpart with the Great Cross of the Cruzeiro do Sul National Order and attend a banquet hosted by President Shankar.

Sarney Comments on Relations

PY0303014989 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] In his welcoming speech, Surinamese President Ramsewak Shankar said that President Jose Sarney's visit to his country—the first ever by a Brazilian president—is a landmark in Suriname's history and has great importance for the two countries and the entire region. In President Shankar's opinion, President Sarney's visit will strengthen mutual relations. [passage omitted]

Shankar emphasized Brazil's support for Suriname during the latter's hardest times and said this created in Suriname a great respect for the Brazilian people. [passage omitted]

In his speech at the airport, President Sarney said he came to Suriname ready to hold constructive talks and to cooperate.

[Begin Sarney recording] In our talks we will discuss international and regional issues, particularly the strengthening of our cooperation ties. Our agenda is broad and has many important items. Filled with the atmosphere of understanding that guides our relations, I am sure we will reach agreements that will bring benefits to our two countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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